

EXPANDED ISSUE

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

The Journal of Professional Adventurers

JANUARY 1990
48493

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Deciding that discretion is the better part of imperialism, the Soviet Union has pulled out of Afghanistan — leaving tons of war booty behind. Weapons, ammo and uniforms — including this KLMK eye mask — have created a booming militaria market in Pakistan, and you can start your shopping on page 60. Photo: Jake Border



COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

The Panama Botch

FROM Lyndon Johnson onward, American presidents have shown themselves to be astonishingly incompetent with regard to the exercise of American military power. And the mistakes are almost always the same, as evidenced by the recently botched coup attempt in Panama.

1. Commitment of troops without a clear military objective in mind. The Bush administration wanted Noriega out and encouraged Panamanian officers to do the dirty work, but it didn't think through what role, if any, the American military was to play in the coup it was instigating. The result was the preposterous spectacle of U.S. troops blocking some roads but not others and U.S. officers dicking with representatives of the coup over whether an American helicopter should be sent to fetch Noriega. The same sort of commitment of troops without a clear-eyed view of what they were supposed to accomplish led to the deaths of more than 240 U.S. Marines in Beirut in 1983. This time the victims were some of Panama's bravest and most honorable soldiers.

2. Failure to use sufficient force to get the job done. When U.S. troops blocked the road out of Fort Amador, the United States became an active participant in the coup attempt. Having done that, there was no rational reason for not deploying sufficient forces to ensure that it succeeded. By failing to do so, Bush continued to embrace the failed policy of "measured response" that has sabotaged American military operations since Vietnam, if not Korea, and has littered the 20th century with the corpses of American fighting men.

3. Micro-management from Washington. Bush administration officials were quick to say that when the coup attempt began they established an open telephone line between the White House and American forces in Panama. The consequence of such communications is that decisions which should be made by field commanders on the ground solely on the basis of the military situation get made in the political fog of Washington. Just as the attempt to rescue the American hostages in Iran would have had a better chance of success if Carter had not tried to micro-manage it, the rebels in Panama would have been better off if Bush had hung up the phone and gone fishing.

4. Insistence on maintaining deniability. Modern presidents have attached great importance to disguising American involvement in military actions that they encourage or initiate. Diplomats call this "maintaining deniability" and consider it clever, because it allows presidents to engage in military action while avoiding the consequences in the event of a defeat. In Panama, Bush let victory slip through his fingers, rather than run the risk of having to own up to defeat in the event of failure. The proper term for that is not "deniability" but cowardice, and it cannot be disguised, no matter how skilled the briefing officer.

In the wake of the Panama failure, Bush again called for the ouster of Noriega and announced he would not object to the use of force "if it could be done in a prudent manner." The truth is that the only "prudent" manner in which to use force is to fight each battle as though the survival of the republic depends on its outcome. Because ultimately it does. ✕

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Advertising Manager
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Administrative
Assistant
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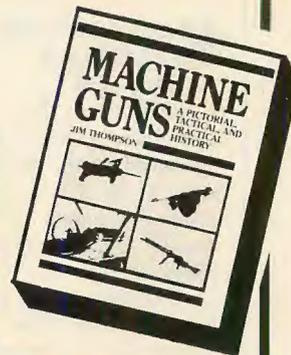


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by Jim Thompson

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RALLY 'ROUND THE FLAG BEARER...

Admiral John M. Poindexter performed his sworn duty. And he did it to the best of his ability. As thanks, he now faces a trial which could net him \$1,500,000 in fines and 35 years in jail. The government he served has spent some \$20,000,000 (no, that's *not* a misprint) in preparing a criminal case against him. A career Navy man who raised and educated five children, Admiral Poindexter obviously doesn't have adequate funds to defend himself. Those he served must help. He feels he has good legal representation, but they must be paid. It's not called voting with dollars, but if the everyday Americans on whose behalf Poindexter served rallied to his defense with bucks for his staggering legal debts, surely somebody would take note. And it's a tangible thanks to a sacrificial lamb in a thankless position. That's: Poindexter Defense Fund, Dept. SOF, Washington, DC 20070-1066.

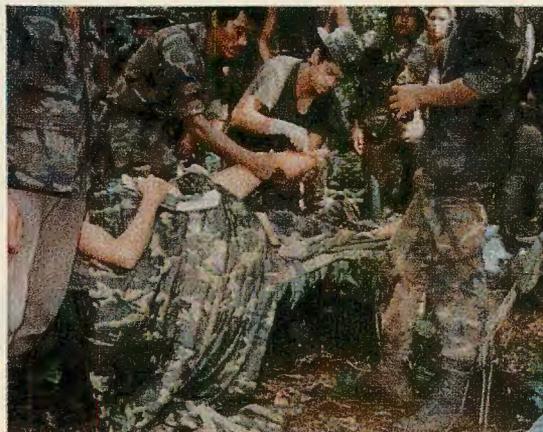
WANTED: WAR STORIES...

All your buddies at the Legion Hall already heard your favorite war stories? The Rabelaisian Society, Dept. SOF, Box 821, Nicasio, CA 94946, is looking for male vets of WW II, Korea and Vietnam who would like to relate their experiences on stage to the general public. For more info, write them with your date of service and a brief biography.

BULLETIN BOARD



Huey, Harrier, Jeep: the leading edge for close support aircraft may well be the hardened version of new Vulcan V/STOL fan-in-wing aircraft, which will usher in a new category of flight. For more info contact Bob Clifton at VAC, 7007 Gulf Freeway, Dept. SOF, Suite 133, Houston, TX 77087; phone (713) 645-1700. Photo: courtesy Vulcan Aircraft Corporation.



Volunteer surgical team from Christian Emergency Rescue Team (Dept. SOF, Box 516, Carlsbad, CA 92008; phone 619-431-9890) performs emergency field amputation on contra maimed by Soviet/Sandinista landmine along Honduran/Nicaraguan border. This freedom fighter survives today because these people cared. If you have a medical skill, can pay your own travel and expenses, and have the guts to spend your vacation working unarmed in a combat zone, they can use your help. If you can't go but want to help, send them a tax-deductible donation so they can ship medical supplies in. We talked with them at the SOF Convention last September, and they're good folks, doing good work. Give 'em a hand! Photo: courtesy C.E.R.T.

CORRECTION...

Soldier of Fortune acknowledges that David Sherman and not C.C. Coffman was the author of an article entitled "By the Book: Combat Common Sense" that appeared in the "I Was There" column of the November 1985 issue of *Soldier of Fortune*.

KOREA FINALLY REMEMBERED...

It's taken 36 years, but there will finally be a memorial to those who served and died in the Korean War. It's a good-looking memorial featuring 38 statues which portray an infantry platoon moving through Korea. And they're *not* calling it a Police-Action Memorial. The design was unveiled recently by the president, and is slated to go near the Lincoln Memorial. One hitch: it's only half paid for. Donations are sought from those of us who care. Send yours to Korean War Veterans Memorial Fund, Dept. SOF, Box 2372, Washington, DC 20012-2372.

WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?...

One Terry Choate, a self-proclaimed socialist who thoroughly PO'd Arizona vets four years ago by attempting to build a monument honoring Vietnam War protesters (zoning ordinances killed it), has been arrested on suspicion of sexual exploitation of minors. Phoenix police busted the 40-year-old cabbie "based on certain photographs of young children involved in sexually explicit acts," said a police spokesman. Phoenix papers quoted Choate as saying his arrest was "political" because of his involvement with the monument.

WHY ARE WE NOT SURPRISED? (NO. 2) OR, RATHER BE FABRICATING...

The Wednesday, 27 September *New York Post* revealed that CBS' hotshot anchorman Dan Rather aired faked and/or staged "battle footages" and "news accounts" of the war in Afghanistan... including segments in a 1984 series which won CBS the DuPont Silver Baton award. Most of the faked segments were filmed by CBS cameraman Mike Hoover, including a shot of a "Soviet jet bombing Afghan villages" aired on an hour-long special, which SOF's David Isby identified late in 1987 as footage of a Chinese-made Q-5 Fantan from the Pakistani Air Force. Earlier in 1987, Rather bought footage stolen from Afghan journalism student

Mohamed Salam, which was aired on the 11 August 1987 CBS news, Rather asserting that the tape was made by Hoover and showed "the biggest one-day defeat for Soviet forces since World War II," and that dozens of Soviet tanks had been captured and over 800 Soviet troops killed (it was actually film of a small but successful attack on Afghan government troops, and there were no Soviet troops in the area at the time). Hoover was reportedly in a cave in New Zealand and unavailable for comment. As we go to press, CBS had not responded. A response shouldn't be too difficult: couldn't they just make something up?

WELL WISHES WELL RECEIVED...

Word from Philip W. Duer, conservator for Barry Sadler, is that piles of get-well greetings and letters have been received from men, women and kids from all over the country, and that Barry has read or had read to him every letter. Barry wishes to express his thanks, while he continues to undergo physical therapy at the VA hospital. He's getting stronger, but these things take time, so if you haven't written yet, do so c/o Mr. Duer at 214 Third Ave. N., Nashville, TN 37201

MEMORY AID FOR THOSE WHO WILL NEVER FORGET...

One of the best clearing houses for information on POWs and MIAs is the *National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia*. They publish the *Concerned Citizen Newsletter*. It's free, but considering the good work they do without official funding, the thing to do is send a few bucks when you ask for the paper at 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 219, Dept. SOF, Washington, DC 20036-5504.

THRESHER MEMORIAL...

The 129 sailors and civilian yard personnel that lost their lives in the sea trials of the *Thresher* are finally to be honored with a granite and bronze memorial to be erected at Albacore Park in Portsmouth, NH. The *Thresher* Base of U.S. SubVets which represents members in New



Drug warriors are now being issued the Steyr AUG. Shown here are men from Customs Air Branch (see "Drug War Aces," SOF, October '88), who appreciate the compactness of the AUG. Photo: courtesy Steyr USA.

Hampshire and Maine has been assigned responsibility of raising required funds; they could use some help. Write Frank Whitty at Thresher Base, Dept. SOF, Box 370, Tamworth, NH 03886

CENTRAL AMERICAN CRISIS: THE VIDEO...

A new video is available which challenges the "conventional wisdom" views on Central America. Plus two insightful books. Put together by veteran diplomat Colonel Lawrence Tracey, these works can provide insight on what's really going on in Central and South America today, and why. The strategic threat posed by Cuba and Nicaragua is carefully explained, as is the betrayal of the Nicaraguan revolution. A salient feature of these documents is that they use the communists' own words to prove the point. Write to: ADLA, Dept. SOF, Box 1166, Portland, OR 97207.

OH, NO, NOT AGAIN!.....

As we enter the 50th anniversary of World War II, a Media General/AP poll indicates over 50 percent of Americans expect another World-Class war, and of those who expect it, over half predict it will escalate to a nuclear exchange. Six in 10 of those who expect World

War III to happen, expect it within two decades. Well, we can always hope they're wrong.

THESE NIKES DON'T RUN...

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WAR MEMORIAL TOO WAR-LIKE?...

Protesting residents, claiming they "lose their peacefulness" when they walk around a Korean War memorial slated for Angel's Gate Park, south of Los Angeles, have persuaded the Los Angeles City Council to ask the vets to alter the design of the 12-man memorial which depicts a squad in battle. A soldier throwing a hand grenade (goodness!), a man aiming a rifle (oh, my stars!) and a man firing a machine gun (horrors!) will now be engaged in more benign activities (peeling spuds, digging a latrine, shining boots?). ☒

HIND SIGHT IS 20/20...

Sirs:

In response to Mr. Hammond's letter (FLAK, October '89) and with all due respect to Mr. Hammond, as he was not present when my MI-24 sighting occurred, (FLAK, July '89) he is not qualified to comment on "what Mr. Fusselman saw..." It may interest your readers, as it did Mr. Hammond, to learn that Orlando Helicopter's MI-24 clone was not in operational testing at the time of my sighting in October of 1988. This information was related to me by Edward Kolcum, Senior Southeast Editor for *Aviation Week & Space Technology* magazine during a conversation in November of 1988. At that time Mr. Kolcum was doing a piece on Orlando for the 9 January 1989 issue of AW&ST. I also learned from military editors at AW&ST that a "Force Evaluation" of Soviet equipment had taken place in New Mexico just prior to my sighting in Arizona.

Additionally, Hans Henri Stapfer, author of the Squadron publication on the MI-24, has informed me that at least one of the three Libyan Hinds captured in Chad (technically an MI-25 export version) went to the United States.

Mr. Stapfer concurs with me that the fixed non-retracting gear and the radial engine sound characteristics of the Orlando are readily distinguishable to the observer, *provided he is there to do the actual observing.*

You might want to caption this one HIND SIGHT IS 20/20.

Mike Fusselman
Phoenix, Arizona



FLAK



RESIGNS OVER GUN GRAB...

Sirs:

This past February I confronted an ethical dilemma which I felt compelled to resolve by taking a personal stand on behalf of both myself and all other gun owners. I thought you might be interested to know the circumstances.

After learning that my employer of more than seven years, Daniel, Mann, Johnson & Mendenhall (DMJM), one of the nation's largest architectural and engineering firms, had made a sizable contribution to the Maryland handgun ban campaign, I resolved that I could not in good conscience be associated with a firm that was working against my personal liberties, and so I offered my resignation.

My resignation was accepted without comment or explanation for the firm's actions. Subsequent letters to the executive officers of DMJM and its parent companies, Ashland Oil and Ashland Technology, have not been given the courtesy of a response.

I have decided that it is my responsibility to inform as many people as possible about the anti-gun stand taken by DMJM and Ashland Oil. I have further decided to discontinue my use of "Valvoline" brand motor oil and other products of Ashland Oil. It may be better to give than receive, but in the case of this corporation, which is helping to undermine my civil liberties, I have elected neither to receive their paycheck nor give them my consumer dollars.

Thanks in large part to the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, I still have the right to vote, both at the polls and with my consumer dollars. I hope you will make others aware of the stand taken by DMJM and Ashland Oil.

Lorin D. Kramer
Scottsdale, Arizona

KARENS MOURN MOTLEY...

Sirs:

I would like to send this message regarding Mr. Lance Motley's death and tender our heartfelt condolences to you. We desire that you please convey our feelings of bereavement, which we share with members of his family. We feel this great loss in the same manner as the SOF people do.

We also would like to acknowledge with gratitude the \$1,000 worth of medicines sent to us through you.

We hope that whatever your SOF organization endeavors to do will be crowned with every success.

To further success and victories and with best wishes,

Major Than Maung
2nd in Command
101 Special Battalion
K.N.L.A. (Karen National
Liberation Army)
Kaw Moo Ra

A ROD TOO FAR...

Sirs:

I have been reading SOF for about 10 years and I find the magazine to be a valuable source of information and entertainment. For this I salute you.

I believe, however, that there are three points that I should direct your attention to:

1. While I found Mr. Kokalis' October 1989 "Full Auto" to be a very effective defense of assault rifles, it was also a source of concern. Specifically, Mr. Kokalis ignored, intentionally I am convinced, the issue of magazine capacity. This is, after all, a distinguishing feature of assault rifles.
2. Peter Douglas misidentified New York Democratic Congressman Stephen Solarz as a U.S. Senator ("Bloody Panjshir," SOF November '89).
3. The November 1989 issue contained one too many descriptions of penis surgery to suit my taste.

I want to congratulate you on your court victory and urge you to continue the fine work.

Raymond L. Gillmore
Jacksonville, Illinois

UNRIVALED FIREPOWER...

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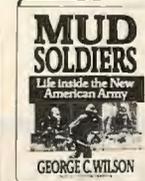
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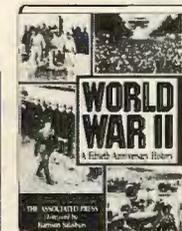
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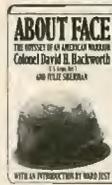
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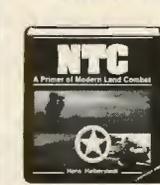
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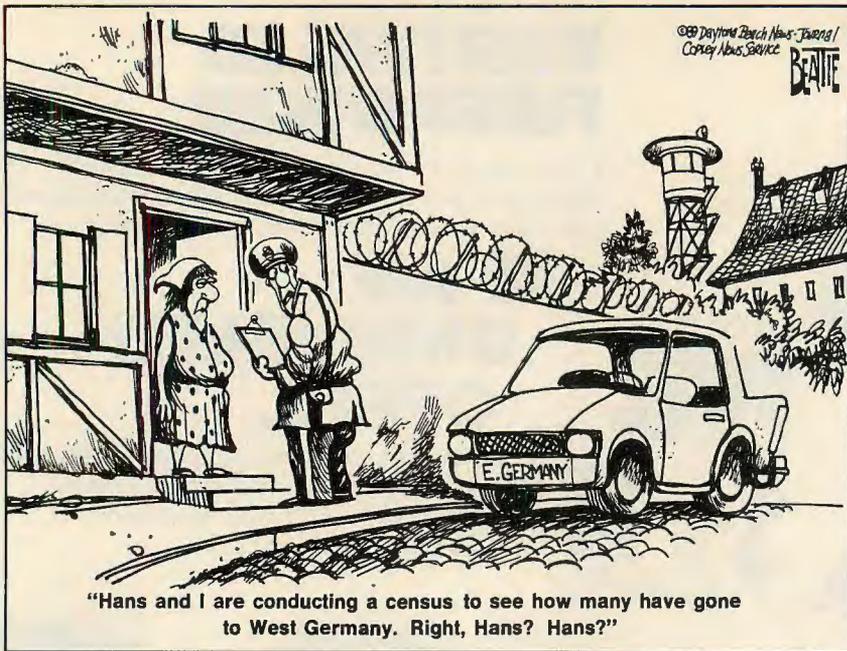
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"Hans and I are conducting a census to see how many have gone to West Germany. Right, Hans? Hans?"

DON'T PUT DOWN GUARD...

Sirs:

As a long-time reader of *Soldier of Fortune*, I greatly appreciate the high quality, unclassified information that you publish. As a Senior Intelligence Analyst in the New Hampshire Army National Guard, I use this information to keep my troops up to date on military actions around the world.

As a Guardsman, I must take exception to the comment under the photo of Vice President Quayle on page 6 of your November 1989 issue. The comment, "Sleep well, your National Guard is awake," does hold some significance. My present unit, 3rd Bn, 197 FA Bde, spent 1968-1969 in Vietnam. I, and many of my fellow Guardsmen, pulled a tour in Southeast Asia. Excuse me if this sounds corny, but when natural disaster strikes, civil **disturbance breaks** out, or civilian authorities need assistance, we're there.

In short, please don't alienate the men and women who make up 44 percent of America's military strength.

SSG Rene A. Turcotte
HNB, 3d Bn, 197 FA Bde
NHARNG
Hampstead, New Hampshire

Our subtle jibe was pointed directly at VP Quayle — not at the thousands of men and women in the Guard who stand ready to come to America's defense. Apology quickly rendered if offense was taken.

WANTS TO STOP IMPERSONATORS...

Sirs:

I have been a dedicated reader of your magazine for many years and would like to congratulate you on the splendid job you've been doing.

Perhaps you could help me with a problem. I've been brought up with strong values, one of which is to never take credit for something I don't deserve. I'm appalled at certain individuals who walk around in fatigues claiming to be Vietnam veterans but who never went there. I even came across one particular guy in his early 20s wearing a Class A uniform, claiming to be Special Forces.

My question is this: Can I turn such a person over to civilian or military authorities for the offence of impersonating a United States soldier?

Marc Slater
B.X., New York

Absolutely. The federal government takes a dim view of people impersonating service personnel. Check with your local police department for appropriate action.

DRUG WAR STRATEGY...

Sirs:

Mr. Bush's lame rhetoric and indecisive inaction in the so-called

"war on drugs" makes obvious the need for far harsher measures in this struggle for our very survival. There are other possible measures which could not fail, if administered consistently. Such include:

1. Execute all convicted drug-related murderers (and all convicted murderers and malicious manslaughterers period).

2. Execute all convicted drug dealers who have been able to maintain an independent living with their illegal, untaxed profits. Their good living is made off of the destruction of both other people's lives and of society at large.

3. Confiscate the property of second (or multiple) conviction users. Bring back public corporal humiliation as a punishment.

4. Legalize marijuana so as to free all resources to attack the heavy drugs such as cocaine, crack, heroin, and ice, among others.

5. Seal the Mexican border with an East German-style border barrier — regardless of scale, cost, required manpower, and political opposition — so as to greatly slow illegal and contraband flow into this country while simultaneously providing jobs.

6. Persuade the drug-producing countries, through the threat to withhold economic aid, to accept the independent presence of American Special Forces as a far more effective way of disempowering and capturing drug kingpins and their private armies.

To fail to adapt and react forcefully is to perish. Those with the power who fail to use it as needed are merely begging the four apocalyptic horsemen to begin their fateful charge. Remember the final Inca emperor's dying words, "Coca shall destroy the white man."

Edward L. Flores
Oakland, California

SOF has received a number of letters from readers containing suggestions as to how we should go about fighting drugs. The readers we would be particularly interested in hearing from in the future are those who will actually have to fight the drug war — the one in 10 SOF readers who are law enforcement officers. If you are one of them, we would like to know how you think we should fight the war on drugs, or if we should fight it at all. We intend to make editorial space available in a future issue of SOF for a law enforcement officers' round table on what is to be done. Generals rarely bother to ask the opinions of the grunts when they're planning the war. Here's your chance. ☒

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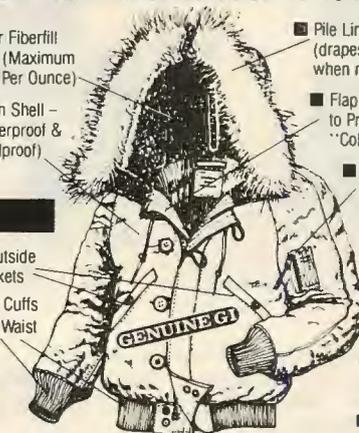
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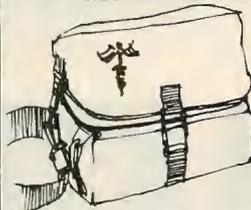
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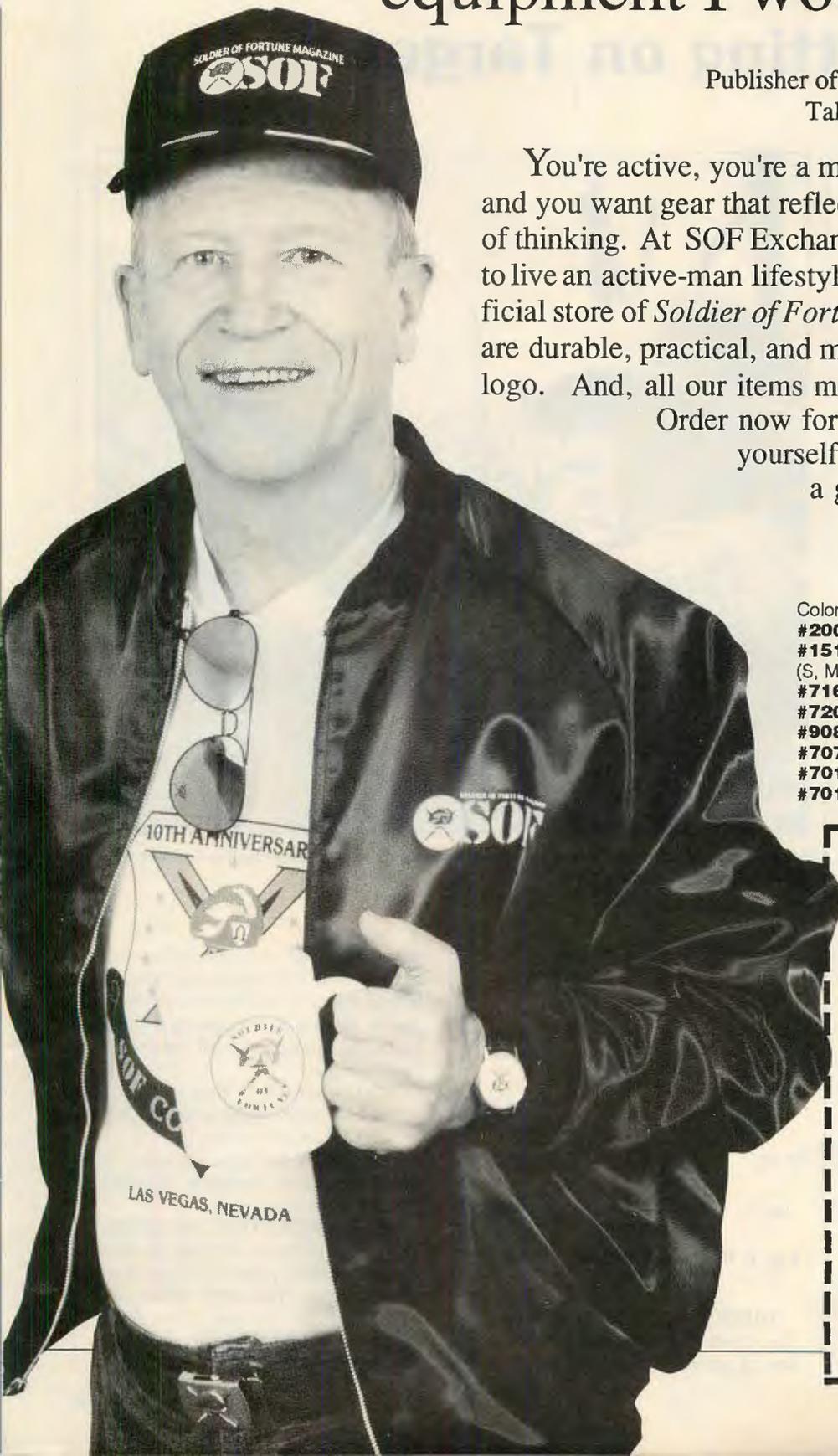
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COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

by Jack Thompson

Getting on Target

PATROLLING in the thick jungle of the Peten in northern Guatemala is always a struggle. A royal pain in the ass to be exact. Movement is reduced to a crawl and visibility is so restricted that you are forced to move around like a pack of wild pigs. However, Lieutenant Estrada and his platoon move on confidently in search of the unseen enemy.

Lieutenant Estrada is lucky. He has as his point man Corporal Garcia, a *kaibil* (graduate of Guatemalan Ranger school) from the Lake Isabel area. Garcia, whose mother is a Kechchi Indian, is good in the jungle by virtue of the fact that in his youth he was a poacher and used to capture exotic birds to sell for illegal export. But in the jungle, even good men like Lt. Estrada and Cpl. Garcia fall prey to the wily Guatemalan guerrilla.

Suddenly and without warning, heavy fire bursts forth from the jungle, sending Estrada and his men to the ground. Garcia, the point man, is shooting in all directions trying to locate the hidden guerrilla group. As the sounds of the ambush bounce wildly off the jungle vegetation, Lt. Estrada gathers his wits and sizes up the situation. He knows if he and his men are going to walk out of this one alive, he will have to accurately locate the *enemy and indicate* where that enemy is to his troops. Only then can the platoon be in a position to fight with any kind of coordination.

Sometimes in a firefight only a small number of men actually know where the enemy is! It is important that the *enemy position be indicated* to all troops so that coordinated, effective fire can be brought to bear on the enemy as quickly as possible. So what are the methods of target indication? How can the location of the enemy be indicated to a person who can't see them? We will address four methods of target indication: 1) the direct method, 2) the reference point method, 3) the clock-ray method, and 4) the use of tracer.



If coordinated, effective fire is required, then an accurate target indication is a must. Photo: USMC, courtesy DoD

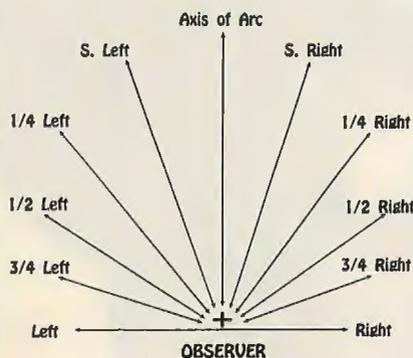


Fig. 1: The Direct Method.

DIRECT METHOD: (See Fig. 1) The direct method is used with your line of advance as axis of arc. After

giving the range to the enemy in yards or meters the unit commander tells the troops where to look by giving a direction in relation to the axis of arc followed by a description of the target. For example:

- "200 — 1/2 left — large tree."
- "300 — slightly right — small hill."
- "250 — 3/4 left — hut."

The idea is that after receiving a target indication, everyone is tuned into the same area.

REFERENCE POINT METHOD:

The reference point method is used when the enemy position is close to an obvious object. The words above and below can also be used. The direct method can also be used in conjunction with the reference point method, with

the reference point being the axis of arc. Example:

"200 — green bush — quarter right — cluster of trees."

"250 — large rock — slightly left and below — enemy machine gun."

The reference point method along with the direct method is an excellent way to indicate targets.

THE CLOCK-RAY METHOD: (See Fig. 2) The clock-ray method of target indication must be used in conjunction with any reference point — that reference point not necessarily your own location. Imagine a vertical clock face placed on your reference point with the center of the clock on that point. To indicate a target your unit leader will tell you the range and reference point. He will also tell you if your target is to the left or to the right of that point. Next, the appropriate hour of the clock will be given and this gives you the direction to look in. Example:

"200 — small hut — left 9 o'clock — small rock."

"250 — grey house — right 11 o'clock — telephone pole."

A combination of the direct method, reference point method and clock-ray method can also be used. Example:

"400 — small hill — right 4 o'clock — bushy tree — slightly left — enemy mortar."

THE TRACER METHOD: The last method of target indication is the use of tracer ammunition. When a target indication is required, you simply yell "watch my tracer" and shoot tracer at the target. Everyone who sees the strike will see where the enemy is. Quick and easy and especially good at night, use of tracer ammunition is an excellent way to indicate targets. In a bright light setting where tracer may be hard to see, the unit leader may call "watch my strikes" and place a few rounds immediately in front of the target, the dust from the impacts marking the target.

A good target indication gives the range, it tells you where to look and describes the target. It is part of a fire control order. A good target indication ensures that everyone knows where the enemy is, which is half the battle.

Lieutenant Estrada walked away from his firefight alive, as did Cpl. Garcia, because they and the rest of the platoon knew where the enemy was and fought as a coordinated unit. ✕

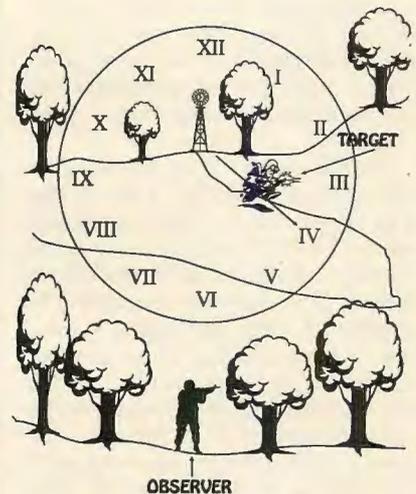


Fig. 2: Example of the Clock-Ray Method in use.



Ka-Bar re-introduces the famous WWII United States Marine fighting knife exactly as it was first issued according to the original blueprints in the company's archives. Now, through the Washington Mint this historic knife is available in a limited, collectors edition.

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WITH the holidays upon us, book publishers have released scores of new titles — some of which ended up in our stocking, hung with great care above the old sandbagged bunker.

Since we're mostly bah-humbugs around here we just couldn't wait for present-opening time to have a look at these Yuletide/New Year offerings, so here's a preview of what jolly old Sergeant Saint Nick might leave under your tree.

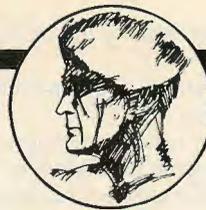
No Christmas carols are sung in Daniel Pollack's thriller, **Lair of the Fox** (Walker and Company), which throws KGB officers, Spetsnaz commandos, a politically radical movie actress, a U.S. diplomat specializing in terrorism, Kurdish *pesh merga* — freedom fighters, and Turkish antiterrorist squads into a pot simmering with 12 stolen canisters of VX nerve gas. Add a full-sized replica of an American frigate, a hulking British mercenary with the unlikely name of Courage, and some of the most colorful writing we've seen in a long, long time, and you've got an exciting companion for some cold, snowy eve (or a warm, balmy seashore if you're so lucky).

Also on the terrorism scene (which knows no holidays), **The Complete Security Guide for Executives** (Lexington Books) by frequent SOF contributor Neil C. Livingstone goes a long way toward ensuring that Santa, and not terrorists, comes sliding down your corporate smokestack or home chimney. Livingstone, one of the world's leading experts on what makes terrorism tick, offers hands-on tips ranging from personal protection, traveling abroad, and nightlife (elves will enjoy this chapter: adult entertainment districts, prostitutes, alcohol and drugs, gambling, and general social tips) to executive protection, bombs and explosives, and kidnapping. Is it safe to walk out your front door anymore? Unless you're sleigh-borne and above it all, not without this handy primer for self-preservation.

From across the pond where the Animals' "We gotta get out of this place" was heard far more often than "Silent Night" come three welcome additions to the growing library of solid Vietnam War literature. **A Lonely Kind of War** (Presidio Press) by three-tour vet Marshall Harrison brings to earth the oft-forgotten war of the forward air controllers — "bringers of death" as the Viet Cong quaintly termed them. On his second tour Harrison was converted from fastmovers — F-4 Phantoms — to OV-10 Broncos, the highly maneuverable eyes and ears of attack aircraft, and found himself running low and slow tree-top missions (the better to draw enemy fire with) and cross-border Special Forces

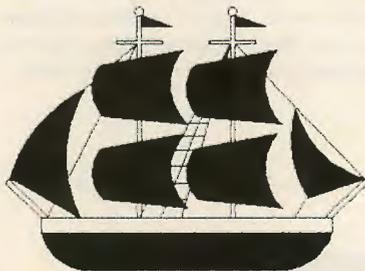
IN REVIEW

by John Coleman



support jobs inside Cambodia (one of which resulted in an unplanned visit to terra firma in Charlie's backyard). For those of you who enjoyed your plum pudding of ham 'n limas on the ground, Harrison's well-crafted and often funny tale of FACs will bring you a new dimension of the war to ponder.

"You contributed to the best Christmas present I have ever received — your rendition of 'Hamburger Hill'." So writes former 101st Airborne PFC James Mangiapane to author Samuel Zaffiri on his book **Hamburger Hill** (Pocket Books), the account of the 11-



Lair of the Fox — An American frigate, a Brit merc named Courage, and stolen VX nerve gas.

20 May '69 battle for Ap Bia Mountain in the A Shau Valley that more than any other single event in the war turned the tide of public opinion against our military involvement. Why? If you've seen the recent movie of the same name (incidentally, one of the better efforts in the genre and worth searching out in video) you'll get an inkling: some of the most brutal head-to-head fighting between NVA regulars and U.S. troops took place on that bloody mountain, and although the NVA were routed they reclaimed Hamburger Hill some three weeks later when the 101st withdrew. Zaffiri writes a powerful account based on official military documents and numerous, lengthy interviews with officers and men who survived to talk about it. General William Westmoreland called this book "excellent" and so do we. Save this one for when the holiday bills start pouring in.

Further afoot (or should we say awash) comes U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Thomas J. Cutler's

Brown Water, Black Berets, (Pocket Books), another facet of the war sadly neglected — until now. As the apocryphal conversation goes: "When I was in Vietnam..." — "Hey! I thought you said you were in the Navy." — "I was." — "Well, what were you doing in Vietnam?" and that pretty well sums up one of the biggest misconceptions of war: The Navy didn't just float offshore eating ice cream; sailors and Coast Guardsmen *did* fight — and die — along the backwaters and coasts of Vietnam. (Movie goers should remember the Navy PBR that hauled Martin Sheen up-river in *Apocalypse Now*.) Cutler, who teaches history at the U.S. Naval Academy, has written what will probably become the definitive history of the Brown Water Navy's involvement in Vietnam, ranging from the early advisers through Vietnamization. Although well sourced, footnoted and bibliographed, this is not a dry, military-type textbook; Cutler wrapped each chapter around interviews with vets who stood the long watch. Good dramatic and informative reading for the weekend *after* New Year's Eve.

Submerged in a different war were a group of sailors whose idea of "Silent Night" was a night when they weren't depth charged by angry destroyers. **The Destroyer Killer** (Pocket Books) by Edwin P. Hoyt vividly scans a microcosm of the U.S. submarine war against the Japanese by focusing on one sub: the USS *Harder* and her go-for-the-throat commander, Samuel D. Dealey. After all was said, done, and counted after the war, Dealey and his *Harder* ranked fifth on the list for enemy tonnage sunk, even though *Harder* was presumed lost to enemy action in August 1944 while other subs continued to fight and kill for many more months. But shooting clay pigeons across the deep blue doesn't earn you four Navy Crosses and a posthumous Congressional Medal of Honor; killing enemy warships bow-on will. During *one* patrol, *Harder* challenged — and beat — five Japanese destroyers, earning Dealey the nickname that sits on the cover of this book. Massive volumes have been written about the Big One, but we often forget that it takes men like Dealey and his crew to ram it down their throats. When the embers are low and everyone else has hit the rack,

Continued on page 101

NIGHT GUARD

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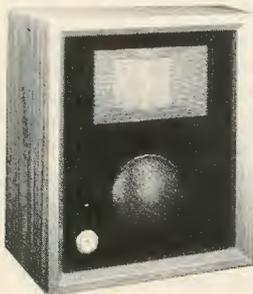


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THIS past September, Deputy John Solheim and I were invited by Richard Davis to participate in the first-ever machine gun competition held by Second Chance Company in Central Lake, Michigan. As you may know, Richard Davis is the founder of Second Chance, the ballistic vest company with more recorded police officer "saves" than all of its competition combined.

John Solheim is one of those saves, and a veteran of several well-known Second Chance pin shoots. So naturally Richard Davis asked him to the machine-gun event. Having worked with John for some time, he'd often heard my brash claims of expertise with "buzz guns," so we both wound up going.

In addition to the match, Richard Davis also planned to film reenactments of shooting incidents involving Second Chance vests, including John's. I can clearly remember the innocent look on John's face when he said, "How would you like to play the part of the bad guy when we film my shooting?" With all the enthusiasm of the guy who won a cruise on the Titanic, I jumped at the opportunity.

We arrived several days prior to the match and concentrated on preparing for filming John's shooting. In the actual event, John was on his way to work with his K-9 partner when he heard of a grocery store robbery in progress. Being near the store, John soon saw the perpetrator speed by in the opposite direction. John turned around and fell in behind the escaping vehicle. The robber then slammed on his brakes, exited his vehicle and began running toward John while his patrol car was still coming to a stop. The robber ran up to the patrol car's door and fired one shot at John, hitting him with a .357 Magnum in the area over the heart. John returned two rounds of .41 Magnum which sent his opponent sprawling to the ground. A short exchange followed in which both men emptied their guns at one another. *John, remaining on his feet, dodged rounds fired by his opponent, who was lying on his back on the street.*

When John's gun was empty he took cover, and his K-9 partner's efforts assured that the suspect, hit at least five times, was too occupied to attempt a reload.

The above description is the short form of what was a very involved and intense series of events which took place in a brief period of time. In planning for the filming, I was greatly relieved that we did not need to recreate the K-9's part in all of this, although John obviously felt that the inclusion of gnashing teeth, and my terrified screams would lend a flavor of authenticity to the proceedings.



I WAS THERE

by William Burris

Second Chance vs. Magnum Force



Ersatz grocery store bandit, Bill Burris, manages to return less-than-accurate fire after suffering two hits from Deputy John Solheim. Photo: courtesy of the author

When the day of filming arrived, there was an undeniable air of anticipation. We would be using Hollywood-style blanks in our firearms in order to assure a realistic portrayal. Precautions included safety glasses and ballistic vests, although the latter were believed to be unnecessary at the ranges to be fired from. All went well through several scenes, until we came to the actual shootout.

I, as the robber, ran from my vehicle up to John, and with great dramatic flair, shot him one time. He immediately returned two shots, and I fell to the ground at his feet. After a moment I "revived" and began to shoot again.

It was at this point that I began to realize that something was wrong. John's normally exceptional marksmanship skills deteriorated under the pressure of filming, and the result was that I took four impressive hits between the bottom of the ballistics pad and the top of my belt. The wadding material

blew right through my T-shirt and left some scorched divots about 1/2-inch deep in my gut.

My immediate thought was "terrific, real ammo," but both John and I had visually inspected both firearms just before shooting. Thought number two was, "Did I somehow recently offend him?" Being caught up in the spirit of the moment, I followed through with my acting until the end of the scene, saving my colorful commentary for the moment Richard Davis yelled, "Cut!"

"Big Al" Kulovitz, a Cook County cop, ran up to me and expressed admiration for my fine "method acting." He said it was just amazing how I grimaced and bounced off the pavement with each shot. I couldn't immediately respond as I was at that moment involved in an inventory of my remaining intestinal assets, wondering how a colostomy bag would affect my ability to play the piano.

Eventually my uncontrolled sniveling captured the attention of those present, and after several fingers were jammed into the wounds as

Continued on page 88

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Ordering information on items not given detailed treatment can be found elsewhere in the mag with the manufacturers' ads (see Advertisers Index for help).

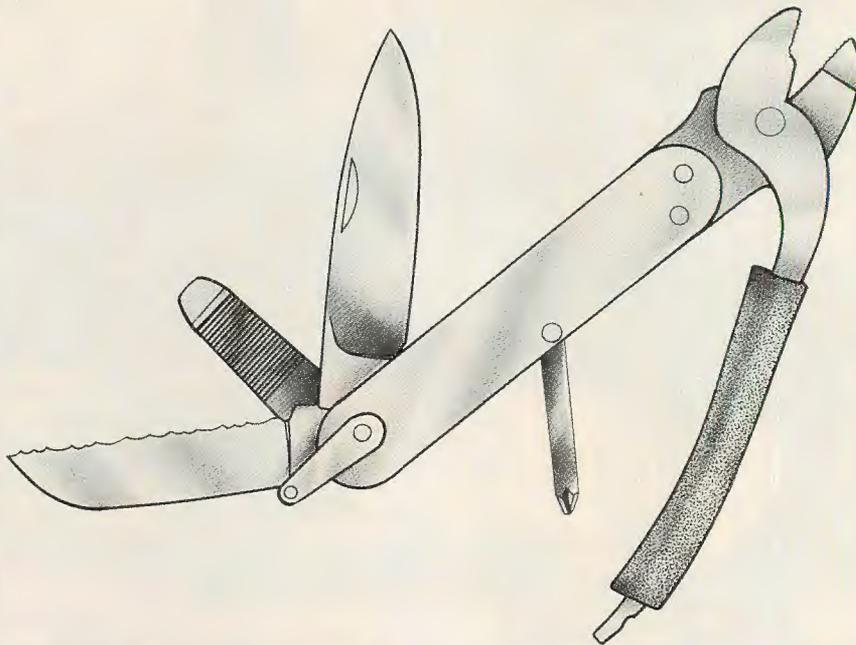
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ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

by Tom Slizewski



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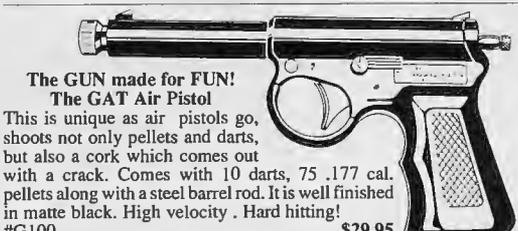
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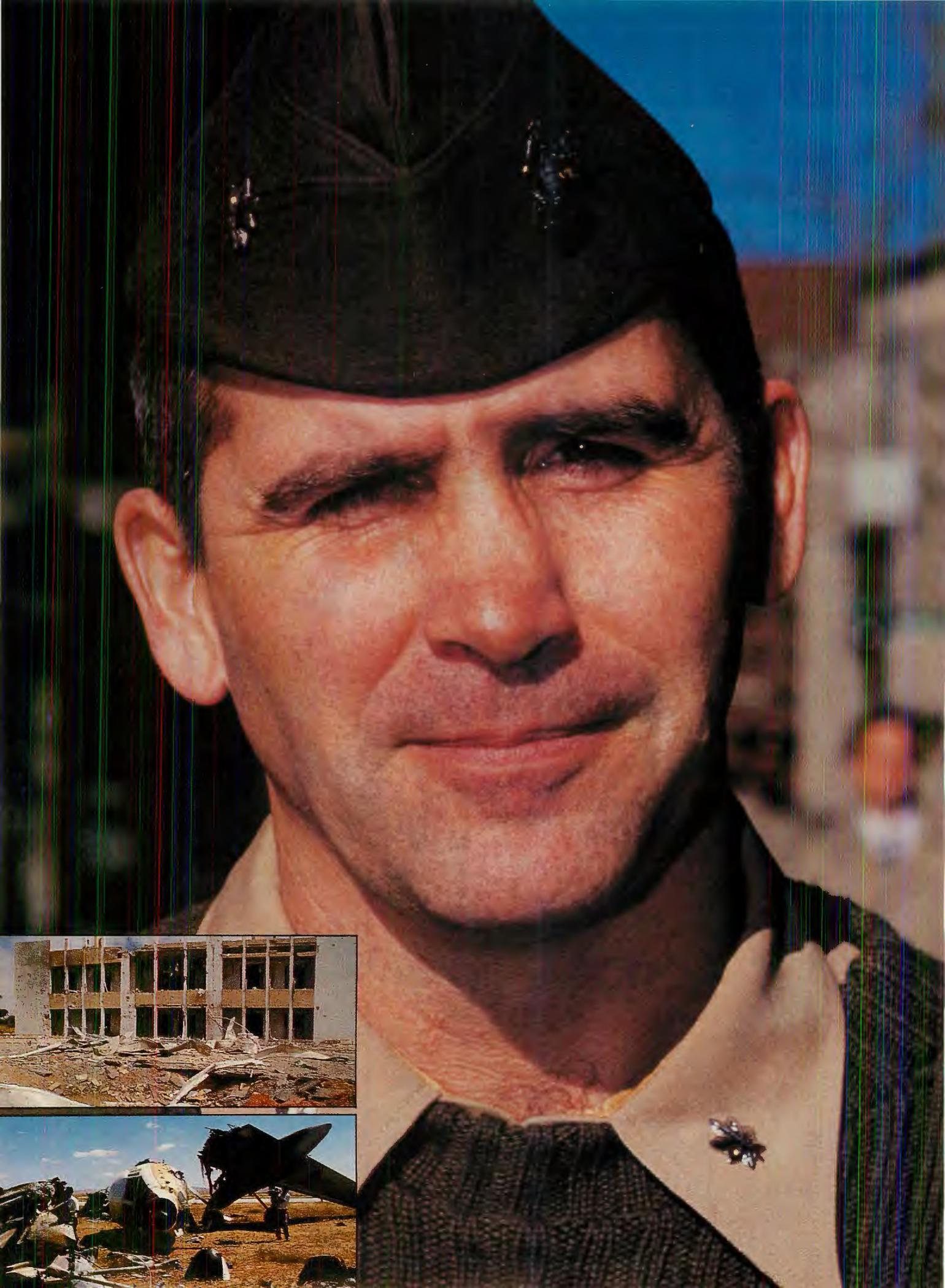
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BOMBS OVER BENGHAZI

Ollie North's Secret War Explodes in Libya

by Neil C. Livingstone & David Halevy

Last month Neil Livingstone and David Halevy discussed the origins of Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North's secret war against terrorism, including its first major victory, the capture by the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro (See "Striking Back, Oliver North's Secret War on Terror," SOF, December '89). This month, in the second and concluding article, they give a behind the scenes look at how North organized the American air strike on Libya, which took the struggle against terrorism into the homeland of one of its leading sponsors.

LEFT: Lt. Col. Oliver North played key role in planning retaliatory attack on Libya. North was guiding force behind U.S. secret war on terrorism before he was fired for his role in Iran-Contra affair. Photo: A. Tannenbaum, Sygma

TOP INSET: Payback time! Bombed facade of Khadaffi's headquarters at the Azzizia Barracks, Tripoli, Libya, after unexpected visit by U.S. Air Force F-111s at 0200 hours, 15 April 1986. Compound contained intelligence and communications installations as well as Khadaffi's personal quarters. Unfortunately he survived. Photo: Bisson, Sygma

BOTTOM INSET: Damage to Libyan aircraft at Benghazi following American raid on morning of 15 April 1986. Raid sparked an abortive mutiny against Khadaffi in the Libyan armed forces. Photo: J. Pavlovsky, Sygma

THE interception and capture of the *Achille Lauro* hijackers looked to be a brilliant victory in the secret war against terrorism directed by Oliver North in 1985-86. The interception of the EgyptAir jet carrying the terrorists to safety was accomplished by F-14 Tomcats flying from the *USS Saratoga*, with the help of timely intel supplied by the Israelis, who had aided in identifying the escape plane and then, through the use of an electronic warfare aircraft, deceived its pilot into thinking he had been denied permission to land in the friendly Arab capital of Tunis. When the jet touched down at the Sigonella Air Base on Sicily, it appeared that not only had the United States bagged the four hijackers but had also gotten in the bargain Mohammed Abbas, the terrorist mastermind of the hijacking and one of the highest ranking terrorists ever to fall into Western hands. But if Israeli military intelligence had helped to make the operation a success, Italian political maneuvering was to rob the United States, and North, of the fruits of victory.

Even as the plane was rolling down the runway at Sigonella, the Italians were in the process of cutting a new deal with the Egyptians. According to North, "The Italians promised the Egyptians that Abu Abbas [Mohammed Abbas] would be saved, as he was the only link between the terrorist attack and the PLO chairman [Yasir Arafat]." The Italians would keep the four sea-jackers, but they promised they would permit Abbas to escape. "Once the second deal was in the making," North recalled afterwards, "the Italians ordered their Carabinieri to Sigonella Air Base to prevent us from taking Abu Abbas to the U.S."

The EgyptAir jetliner had just landed

SHADOW WAR EXPERTS

Neil C. Livingstone and David Halevy are two of the world's leading authorities on international terrorism and the deadly shadow wars in the Middle East.

Livingstone is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University and has written numerous articles and books on terrorism and national defense, including *Beyond the Iran-Contra Crisis: The Shape of U.S. Counter-Terrorism Policy in the Post-Reagan Era*, published by Lexington Books.

David Halevy is a 19-year veteran correspondent and a former member of Israel's special operations forces. He is also in the Israel Defense Forces reserves.

A number of articles by Livingstone and Halevy have appeared in SOF, the most recent being an account of how an attempt to rescue U.S. hostages in Lebanon was betrayed (see "Operation Betrayal," October '89) and a report detailing how Israeli commandos assassinated Abu Jihad, the Palestine Liberation Organization's military operations chief (see "Defanging The Serpent," December '88).

The current article is the second of a two-part series drawn from Livingstone's new book, *The Cult of Counterterrorism* (Lexington). The first installment appeared in the December '89 issue of *Soldier of Fortune*.

when the transports carrying a combined force of commandos from Delta and SEAL Team 6, commanded by Brigadier General Carl Stiner, touched down on the runway. As the Egyptian plane came to a stop and stairs were rolled toward the door by ground personnel, the black-clad U.S. commandos surrounded the jetliner. General Stiner handed his UZI submachine gun and pistol to one of his men and climbed the steps to the Egyptian plane. The plane's door opened, and the American general faced two Egyptian commandos, who pointed their Soviet-made Kalashnikovs at him.

After some discussion — during which an open line was maintained to Oliver North and the White House Situation Room — the Egyptian commandos laid down their weapons and Mohammed Abbas and the four seajackers were escorted off the aircraft toward a waiting American plane, with its engines running. Suddenly Italian Carabinieri rushed to the parked U.S. plane and,

pean allies could not be counted on in the war against terrorism, and that ultimately the United States would be forced to take even more drastic steps to protect its citizens and property. "It was a piece of art," North reflected sadly, describing the operation. "It was a masterpiece of intelligence work, and there was smooth cooperation with some allies while others chose not to cooperate, fearing terrorist retaliation. The interception was a model of U.S. government agencies working together." He faulted the Italians for their lack of courage, and while the rest of the nation was savoring the triumph, he returned to the drawing board to plan the next U.S. blow against terrorism.

The Shores of Tripoli

Despite North's new powers and expanded portfolio and the setback dealt to international terrorism by the daring seizure of the *Achille Lauro* pirates, terrorism was soon on the rise once again. Terrorist organizations like Abu Nidal's Black June, Yasir

"North believed that the only real answer was to strike at the 'heart of the beast'..."

with weapons leveled, formed a circle around the American commandos and their captives. Stiner was on the radio, describing the tense drama to North as it unfolded. It was at this moment, North later recalled, that he "knew it was all over. We were not going to clash with one of our allies over a terrorist."

The U.S. commandos ultimately relented and permitted the Italians to spirit Abbas and his companions away. The Italian government then allowed Abbas to slip quietly out of Italy on a Yugoslav plane, politely ignoring a U.S. request for his detention and extradition. His four companions, however, were detained by the Italian government and ultimately made to stand trial. Magid al-Molqi, the Palestinian who confessed to the actual murder of Leon Klinghoffer, was given a 30-year sentence, and two of his confederates were given prison terms of 24 and 15 years. A fourth seajacker was scheduled to be tried separately as a minor. Abbas and two deputies, Ozzudin Badratkan and Ziad el-Omar, were tried in absentia and sentenced to life imprisonment, although the gesture by the court had a hollow ring considering that the Italian government knowingly aided and abetted Abbas' escape.

From the Reagan administration's point of view, the mid-air interception of the *Achille Lauro* pirates was an indisputable triumph. Throughout the nation there was a surge of pride, and the president's approval rating soared to 68 percent in the polls. For North, however, it was, at best, a mixed success. He believed that the Craxi government's cowardly capitulation to the terrorists demonstrated once again that America's Euro-

Arafat's Force 17, and Hezbollah were involved in a variety of new attacks and operations against Western targets, and nations such as Libya, Syria, and Iran showed few signs of reducing their support of terrorist proxies.

North believed that the only real answer was to strike at the "heart of the beast" — the terrorist-sponsoring states themselves — and make it clear that they would have to pay a significant price for supporting terrorism. Thus, he began to draft detailed contingency plans for striking directly at Libya, the most vulnerable of terrorism's state sponsors. Unlike Syria, Libya was militarily weak and possessed only a limited air defense system; and unlike Iran, which presented real logistics problems, Libya was readily vulnerable to U.S. military power in the form of the Sixth Fleet and deployed at various NATO bases scattered across Europe. To make Libya an even more inviting target, its leader, Colonel Muammar el Khadafi, was a certifiable looney tune with little international support, even in the Islamic bloc.

North's efforts ultimately contributed to the 15 April 1986 raid on the Libyan capital of Tripoli, the first direct blow by a Western nation victimized by terrorism, other than Israel, against one of terrorism's principal state sponsors. On 27 March 1986, more than two weeks before U.S. Navy and Air Force warplanes roared through the dark skies over Tripoli for 11 minutes and 30 seconds, Libyan couriers or classified messages were intercepted and decoded by Western intelligence. The messages originated at the Libyan intelligence headquarters in Tripoli and ordered Libyan intelligence attaches posted in the various "People's

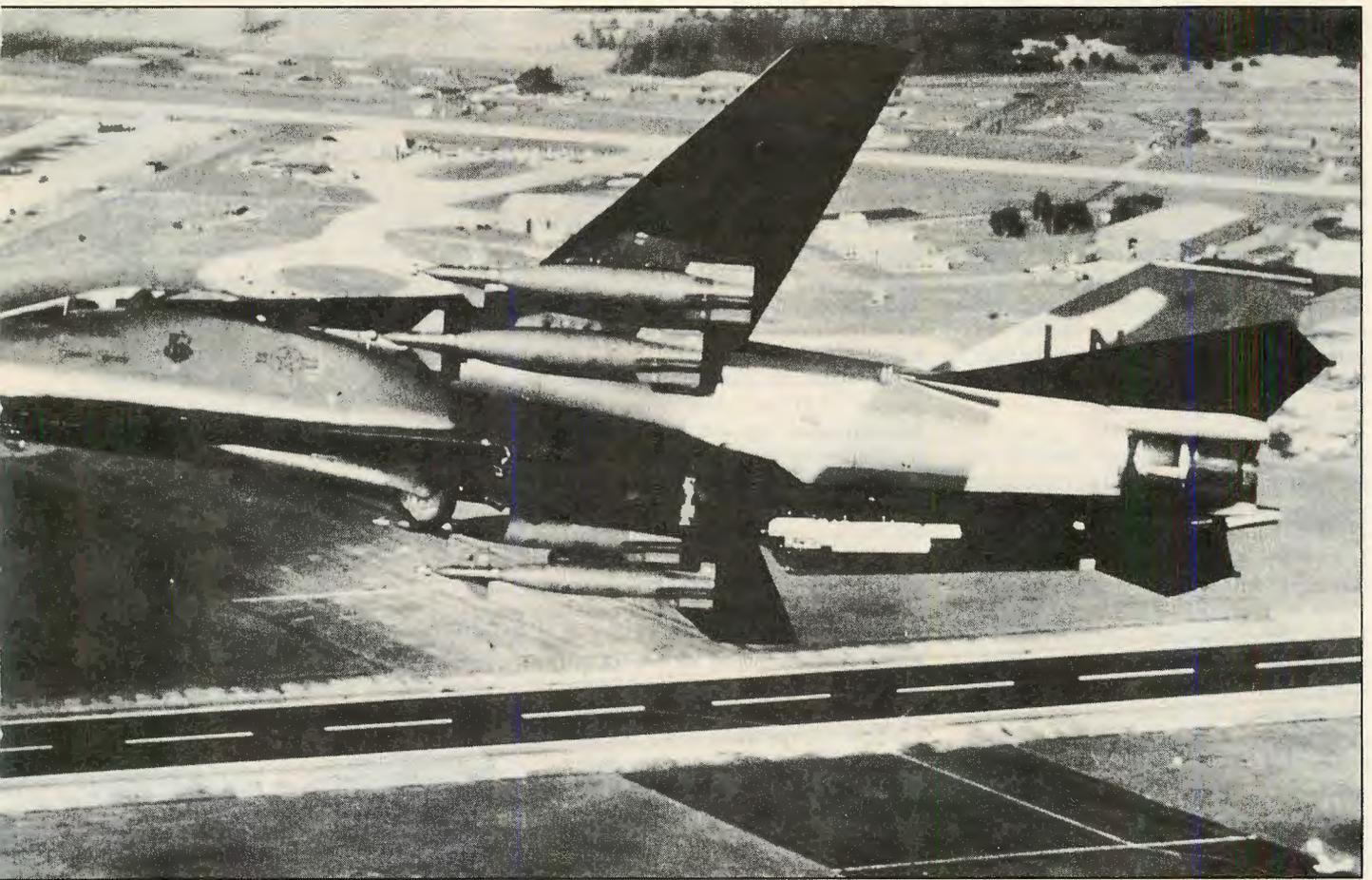


Bureaus" (Libyan embassies) around the globe, in a clear and unambiguous manner, to initiate terrorist attacks on U.S. and other Western targets.

"Khadafi's orders were such," North said, "that we had to move very quickly in order to prevent a major disaster." One of the intercepted Libyan messages stated, among other instructions, "Cause maximum casualties to U.S. citizens and other Western people." The message originated in Tripoli under Khadafi's personal authority and outlined operational plans for more than 10 terrorist attacks.

The planned attacks were designed to be carried out by devoted Palestinian terrorist operators on Libya's payroll and, since not enough proxies could be found, by members of the Libyan intelligence community itself. "Khadafi ordered his henchmen to practically go on a manhunt against U.S. citizens and people of other Western nationalities," North explained later. "Let's keep in mind that in the disco explosion 146 Germans were wounded, and the list of casualties included nine nationalities other than the U.S. servicemen and West German citizens." It was later learned that there was also substantial Syrian involvement in the plot, although what form this took is still a matter of dispute.

There was growing concern at the National Security Council (NSC) that the Libyan terrorist attacks were imminent, and the problem for the team headed by North was to identify the specific targets before they were hit. Thus, extensive resources were directed



at the Libyan People's Bureaus addressed in the intercepted communications. The messages had been sent to the People's Bureaus in Europe (East Berlin, Paris, Madrid and Lisbon), the Middle East, Africa and the Caribbean. Subsequently, Libyan diplomats in East Berlin informed their headquarters in Tripoli that they had selected a target and were moving to carry out their mission. By Friday, 6 April, the NSC team was able to piece together enough of the puzzle to ascertain that the target chosen by the Libyan operatives was a West Berlin bar, disco, or nightclub frequented by U.S. military personnel. Based on this conclusion, MPs were dispatched throughout West Berlin to pull American personnel out of all nightspots. Only five minutes before MPs would have arrived at the La Belle disco, a powerful bomb ripped through the establishment.

Throughout the night, North stayed in his office, in constant touch with U.S. officials on the scene. The following day, he was ready with an extensive list of counterterrorism measures for consideration. In addition to reviewing the previous night's attack in West Berlin, the NSC was provided with conclusive data that Libyan agents were at that moment laying the groundwork for additional terrorist attacks in Paris and Madrid. According to North, it was decided to provide the data to the State Department's top anti-terrorism official, Ambassador Robert Oakley, who was on his way to Europe as a presidential emissary. He, in turn, was instructed to transmit the data secretly to the French and Spanish governments so that

USAF F-111 equipped with laser-guided bombs similar to the ones that conducted the air strikes on Libya. Planes had to fly non-stop from Britain via a circuitous over-water route that required multiple in-flight refuelings because French and Spanish governments refused to grant overflight permission. Photo: Sygma

they could take appropriate steps. The following Sunday, the president was advised during his regular NSC morning briefing about the steps that were being taken. He approved them, and told those assembled to "try to make the world smaller for terrorists," a message Oakley was told to convey to the Europeans on his trip.

Ironically, at this exact moment, Khadaffi — perhaps fearing that he had gone too far — initiated a desperate attempt to open secret contacts with the Reagan administration, using a series of semi-official channels and private individuals, including Italian businessmen and oil industry sources. The administration, however, had long before lost all interest in Khadaffi's unorthodox overtures to Washington.

"All the messengers and well-wishers were told to lay off," North said. "They were told to tell Khadaffi that he could approach us through Belgian diplomatic channels," the only approved point of contact.

The administration rejected Khadaffi's overtures not only because it had conclusive knowledge of pending Libyan-sponsored terrorist attacks, but also because U.S. in-

telligence had uncovered a secret Libyan plot to "buy" American hostages in Lebanon from the Shi'ite terrorist group Hezbollah. "We have solid intelligence that Khadaffi was trying to buy the six American hostages held in Lebanon, from Hezbollah terrorists that were holding them captive," North contended. He said that Khadaffi had offered Hezbollah \$100 million for the six Americans and another \$50 million for the French hostages they were holding. Most of the hostages were imprisoned in a four-story building located near one of the runways of the Beirut International Airport, in cells two floors below the ground. The building also housed various Hezbollah families on the upper levels. In order to block Khadaffi's offer of cash in exchange for the hostages, in April 1986 North said, "The U.S. has moved to free the hostages." He refused to elaborate on the details of the U.S. countermove at that time, but it is evident today that secret contacts with Iran were well underway and that North hoped they would deliver the American hostages from Libya's grasp.

On Wednesday, 9 April, during an NSC meeting in the Oval Office, the president was provided with additional information on the planned Libyan terrorist campaign. After listening to all of the reports, the president concluded: "The evidence is irrefutable. It is conclusive. We have to move to stop them from carrying out those terrorist operations."

In early April, the NSC planning team was still exploring the use of Navy SEALs

against selected targets in Tripoli and Benghazi. But the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) rejected the idea from the very outset, raising the specter of unnecessary casualties and possible prisoners. Despite North's own reservations, his team, in response, came up with the idea of using USAF B-52 bombers, or even cruise missiles, against targets in Libya. This also was rejected by the JCS who opted instead for a three-carrier task force and the use of Navy air power against Khaddafi. Although the decision had not yet been finalized as to whether Air Force F-111s would also be used in the raid, the decision to ferry the necessary aircraft to Britain had already been made.

North, for his part, wanted to employ surgical means to hit Khaddafi. The JCS, on the other hand, wanted simply to repeat the successful strategies employed in the March skirmishes for the Gulf of Sidra, in which U.S. warplanes attacked Libyan patrol boats and land-based radars, and in the 1981 sorties in which U.S. F-14s shot down two Libyan fighter-bombers over the disputed waters. Try as he might, North also failed to win agreement on using a SEAL team to infiltrate Libya and deploy homing devices capable of guiding the so-called "smart" bombs that would be dropped during the raid to their targets. Had one of the laser projectors been secretly positioned on the grounds of the Azzizia Barracks, where Khaddafi lived, he might not have survived the attack, and the number of civilian casualties might have been reduced. The debate over which weapons and military units to use caused a split between the JCS and the uniformed services on one side, and North and the NSC staff, buttressed by CIA Director Bill Casey and the intelligence community, on the other. After a heated exchange of views between the NSC staff and the Pentagon, the president sided with his military advisers, and the issue was put to rest.

While all this was going on, the intelligence community, under the personal direction of Bill Casey, was busy collecting the necessary data on the targets that had been selected. Satellite pictures were assembled, and intensified air reconnaissance was authorized over Libya. Armed with specific questions, U.S. intelligence agents conducted extensive debriefing sessions with Libyan exiles in the West and polled its network of anti-Khaddafi Libyan dissidents.

But the most critical intelligence — intelligence of a real-time nature — came from another source, and it was this intelligence that in the final analysis actually permitted the raid to take place. Once again it was Oliver North who was responsible for handling this source of information and channeling the critical data to the Pentagon Situation Room, which transmitted it on to the Sixth Fleet and the F-111 pilots, already en route to their targets.

Several days before the raid, the Israelis became aware of the Sixth Fleet's high state of readiness. As North's close working relationship with Israeli intelligence had con-

tinued to grow, and was being reinforced by the secret Iran initiative, he was not surprised when a top Israeli official offered to be of assistance in providing up-to-date intelligence about Libya. At the same time, the commander of the Israeli signals monitoring service, the Israeli equivalent of the National Security Agency, suggested to NSA that it establish open secure lines between Fort Meade, NSA's headquarters, and the unit's headquarters in Israel. Although deeply concerned about possible security breaches, the United States accepted the Israeli offer.

On 9 April, the Israelis offered to position their RC-135 spy plane clone over the Mediterranean, opposite the Libyan coast, for close monitoring operations. North recommended that Washington accept the offer and reluctantly NSA agreed, for it was taking the spy agency between four and 10 hours to translate and evaluate the vast amount of communications data — radio signals, telephone conversations, military messages — that it was gathering from Libya. And this did not include the further delays involved in forwarding important data through intelligence channels to the Pentagon and the White House, and then on to the Sixth Fleet and other consumers.

Responding to the semi-official request from the United States, the Israelis kept a spy plane continuously off the Libyan coast from 10 April onward. Two planes were used, operating on 12-hour shifts. The Arabic-speaking Israeli technicians were able to listen to the Libyans and evaluate the information on the spot. It was then transmitted in real-time to Tel Aviv and from there on to NSA and the White House. As it was received at Fort Meade, it was checked against intelligence the United States had collected from its own sources and generally verified within a few hours.

Realizing that even short delays, calculated in minutes, could be critical following the actual onset of hostilities, the White House and Pentagon authorized North to approach his Israeli contacts — presumably the intelligence channel established during the TWA 847 crisis — on 13 April, two days before the raid and suggest that they transmit time-critical intelligence directly to the White House. The Israelis quickly agreed with the proposal and opened a secure line to the White House Situation Room, where the information from the spy planes was coming in.

This proved to be a crucial bit of foresight. During the late evening hours of 14 April and early morning hours of 15 April, as the F-111s were bearing down on Tripoli and the Sixth Fleet was positioning its A-6s and F/A-18s on their carrier catapults, the Pentagon asked the Israelis if the flow of data could be rushed even more. The White House Situation Room needed to know the state of alertness of the Libyan air defense systems, the whereabouts of Muammar Khaddafi, and the readiness of the Syrian MiG pilots stationed at Libyan air fields. The transmission of raw intelligence data

was by this time pointless, since there was no time to interpret it; the White House needed precise real-time data. Once again, the Israelis readily agreed to the request and opened a direct secure line from the spy plane overflying the Mediterranean to the office of their military intelligence (AMAN) chief, Major General Ehud Barak.

As data from the spy plane reached his desk, Maj. Gen. Barak immediately passed it on to the White House or to the Israeli intelligence attache, Colonel Moshe Zur, at Israel's embassy in Washington. Colonel Zur kept an open line to the Pentagon's war room. He would read the information to the DIA senior duty officer, who would then send it out to the Sixth Fleet and the F-111 squadron.

"The system really worked," a senior American intelligence officer later observed. Although the on-board computers on the F-111s were already programmed with respect to their targets in Tripoli, the data collected by the Israelis turned out to be extremely important to the success of the raid. However, it created some internal problems within the Israeli government. Israel's Institute for Intelli-



gence and Special Tasks (Mossad) is supposed to have sole responsibility for that country's ties to foreign intelligence services. Apparently no one in the Mossad, including its director, Nachum Admoni, was aware of the private arrangement that Maj. Gen. Barak had made with North and the Americans.

After an NSC staff meeting on 9 April, two NSC staff teams met and prepared a target list. Five targets were selected and quickly approved. First on the list was the Azzizia barracks compound, which housed command and communications centers for the Libyan military and intelligence communities. It also contained Muammar Khadafi's personal quarters and was where his family lived. The famous Bedouin tent where Khadafi often slept, the only heat being provided by glowing coals in the sand, was also located within the compound. The compound was protected by Khadafi's Praetorian Guard.

The second target on the list was Libyan military aircraft parked at the Tripoli International Airport. Libya's Soviet-built IL-76s were used to transport troops to Chad and keep them supplied. The United States

and France had been opposing Libyan designs on Chad for more than a decade. Third on the target list was the Benghazi army barracks, which provided Khadafi with an alternative command post and Praetorian Guard in the Benghazi area. The fourth target was the Sidi Bilal naval port facility, the location of a naval commando center used to train Libyan and Palestinian terrorists. The Benina airfield, the base for Libya's MiG-23 interceptors that had to be neutralized for security reasons, was the final target.

With added assistance from the up-to-date intelligence being provided by the Israelis, several members of the NSC staff felt that there was a strong probability that "we will get Khadafi himself." While there was concern that Khadafi's death not appear as an assassination, but rather fate — being in the wrong place at the wrong time — the replacement of the Khadafi regime was clearly the Reagan administration's chief unspoken goal in conducting the raid. Whether Khadafi was killed in the actual raid or whether he was toppled by a coup triggered by the attack made no difference. What was important was that the Libyan

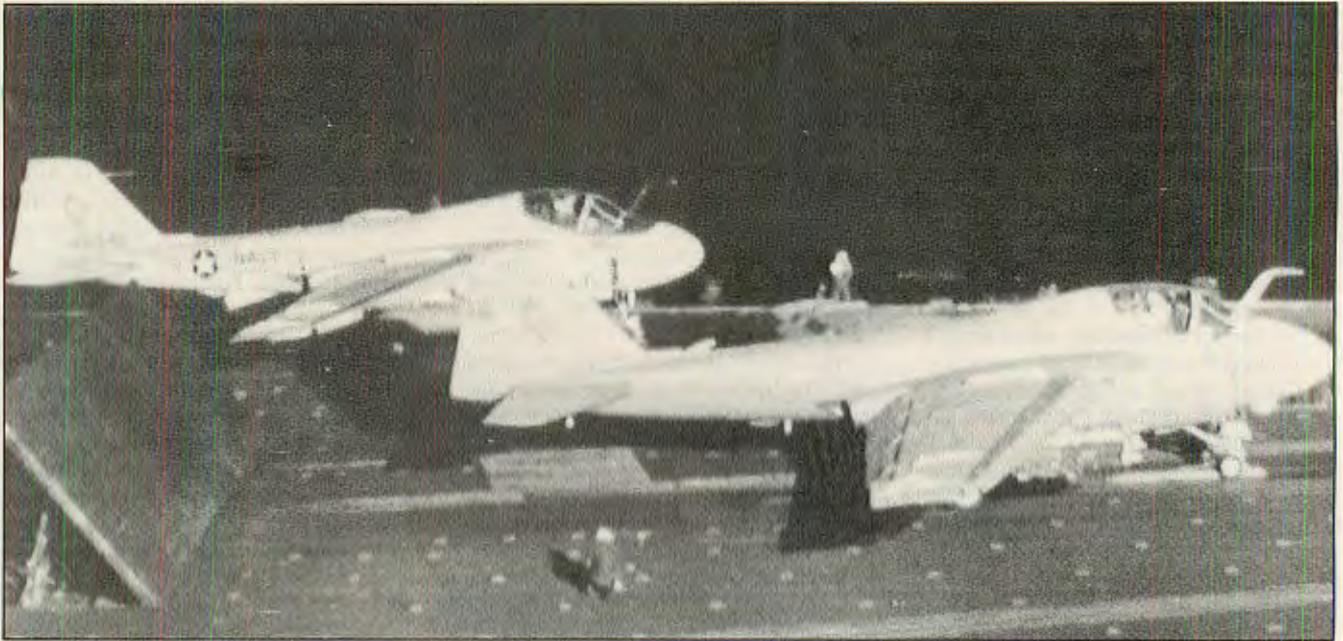
government be dissuaded from using terrorism as an instrument of national policy, and if the best way to achieve that result was the removal of the existing regime in Tripoli, then so be it.

After being consulted, the Thatcher government approved the use of the U.S. Strategic Air Command base in Great Britain for the launching of the medium-range F-111 bombers, which had to be refueled en route to Libya. Prime Minister Thatcher and her top aides were apparently unenthusiastic about the raid, but went along with the U.S. request, both to repay Washington for its support during the Falklands War and because of the surprising opposition voiced by the British government to the Grenada invasion, which later turned out to have been based on poor intelligence and misinformation.

On Thursday, 10 April, North and vari-

Damage to the Libyan Naval Academy at Sidi Bilal, which trained more than cadets, following U.S. air strikes on Libya. Not all U.S. bombs missed their targets. Photo: AP/Wide World





Navy A-6s line up on the deck of the USS America just before launch for the attack on Libya. Photo: AP/Wide World

ous Navy and Air Force planners completed the final political and military review in advance of the raid. They recommended that the attack be carried out at 0200 Tripoli time. This decision, North later confirmed, was predicated on new intelligence information obtained from the Israelis on the readiness of Libyan air defenses. It had been learned that the last Libyan duty officer left his post at midnight, whereupon the entire Libyan air defense system was shut down. The only threat that remained came from Syrian MiG-21 pilots who manned the Libyan first interceptor squadron on a 24-hour-a-day basis. The Syrian interceptors, however, were not operationally independent and therefore could not respond even to an enemy attack without prior clearance. Each of their sorties had to be cleared in advance with the Libyan supreme command or with Khadaffi personally. Based on that information, said North, "We were rather sure that at 2 a.m. it would take the Syrians *hours before they could obtain clearance for an interception sortie.*"

Although the actual date of the attack had not yet been set and was awaiting final presidential action, by 10 April, "everything was in place and all systems were ready to go," observed a JCS source. When the National Security Council met the following day to select a date for the raid, it was decided to postpone the operation, based on recommendations from CIA Director Bill Casey and North. The decision to delay action was taken mainly because of Casey's insistence that more time be given to pull his agents — "who risked their lives for us" — out of Libya or permit them time to reach more secure locations in-country. Despite the subsequent delay, not all of the CIA's agents were able to get out of Libya before

the raid, although there is no evidence that any of them were later killed or captured.

For his part, North wanted to postpone the operation for a few additional days in order to obtain more exact intelligence from NSA and the Israeli spy plane concerning the targets that had been selected. In addition, North was concerned that "too many operational details were being kicked around and too many administration officials and press people were involved in irresponsible speculation" about the possibility of U.S. military action against Libya.

"Those who leaked and talked publicly about sensitive intelligence and speculated about the military operation," North argued, "jeopardized the lives of U.S. servicemen and U.S. citizens overseas."

When the president returned from Camp David on Sunday afternoon, 13 April, the NSC was convened. The president was briefed by the national security adviser regarding preparations for the raid, following which he presented Reagan with the various options and a draft of the final operational plans. No objections came from any of the NSC members assembled. Then Admiral Crowe, chairman of the JCS, provided a short briefing on the final military plan of action, and the president inquired if his explicit request for a mechanism to recall the planes short of their targets had been implemented. Assured that the command post maintained the ability to abort the operation up to 10 minutes before the attack was scheduled to occur, or 1850 Washington time, the president appeared to be satisfied with the preparations. As the final details were being discussed, Reagan instructed aides to prepare a meeting, scheduled for the following afternoon, with congressional leaders. Around 1600, the president gave final approval to the operation, but not before making some angry comments concerning leaks that had occurred. He regarded them as endangering the safety of the entire mission. The executive order drafted for the

operation called for an air strike against "terrorist targets inside Libya" on Monday night, 14 April 1986, in accordance with an operational plan recommended by the NSC and the Pentagon.

Immediately after the meeting, Adm. Crowe, using a secure line, informed the commander-in-chief of the Sixth Fleet, Adm. Kelso, of the decision. The carrier task force thereupon initiated a series of maneuvers designed to lose the Soviet tail that is their constant shadow.

Monday, 14 April, seemed to most a normal day at the White House. Only a few people sensed the tense and unusual atmosphere produced by the unfolding events. The president met with congressional leaders at 1615, and they were fully briefed as to the impending raid. The F-111s were already in the air and the president told the assembled members of Congress that if anyone demurred, he would recall the planes at once. No one voiced any objections, so the air strike went forward. Before they left, members of Congress were warned by the president to be extremely careful with their statements to the press. "Whatever you say to the press outside," one participant recalls the president saying, "will affect the lives of the U.S. pilots." Despite the president's admonition, however, House Majority Leader Jim Wright and Senate Minority Leader Robert Byrd told reporters that surrounded them after the meeting that the president was expected to address the nation that evening at 2100. To anyone reading between the lines, it was clear that something big was afoot, and since Libya was the issue dominating the headlines, an unexpected presidential address to the nation could only mean one thing. Despite the fact that the remarks by the two congressional leaders set off a flurry of speculation in the media, the Libyans apparently did not get wind of it prior to the attack, or were unable to understand its implications.

As the meeting broke up, the White

House Situation Room was already fully staffed and members took their seats around the table. At 1853 Washington time, the first F-111 crossed the Libyan coastline. The F-111s were flying into the Libyan desert in order to wheel around and attack their targets from the south. At precisely 1900 hours, the Sixth Fleet launched its fighter-bombers. Five minutes later, CNN broadcast the first news of the attack from Tripoli, and White House spokesman Larry Speakes was directed to meet with the White House press corps in the press room, where members of the media were clamoring for information and comments. At 1911 hours, 30 seconds, the attack on Libyan targets were broken off, and all of the planes were reported to be leaving the area. One F-111 was subsequently found to have been lost.

In retrospect, the joint Navy-Air Force military operation aimed at removing Khaddafi from the scene and destroying key targets in Tripoli and Benghazi turned into a far more complicated mission than originally conceived. What initially was viewed by planners as a preemptive counterterrorist strike was changed by the Joint Chiefs and the Pentagon into an elaborate air raid in-

volving the massive use of U.S. military power against highly sophisticated targets in the dead of night. While some of the Navy pilots had combat experience, none of the Air Force crews had ever engaged in combat before.

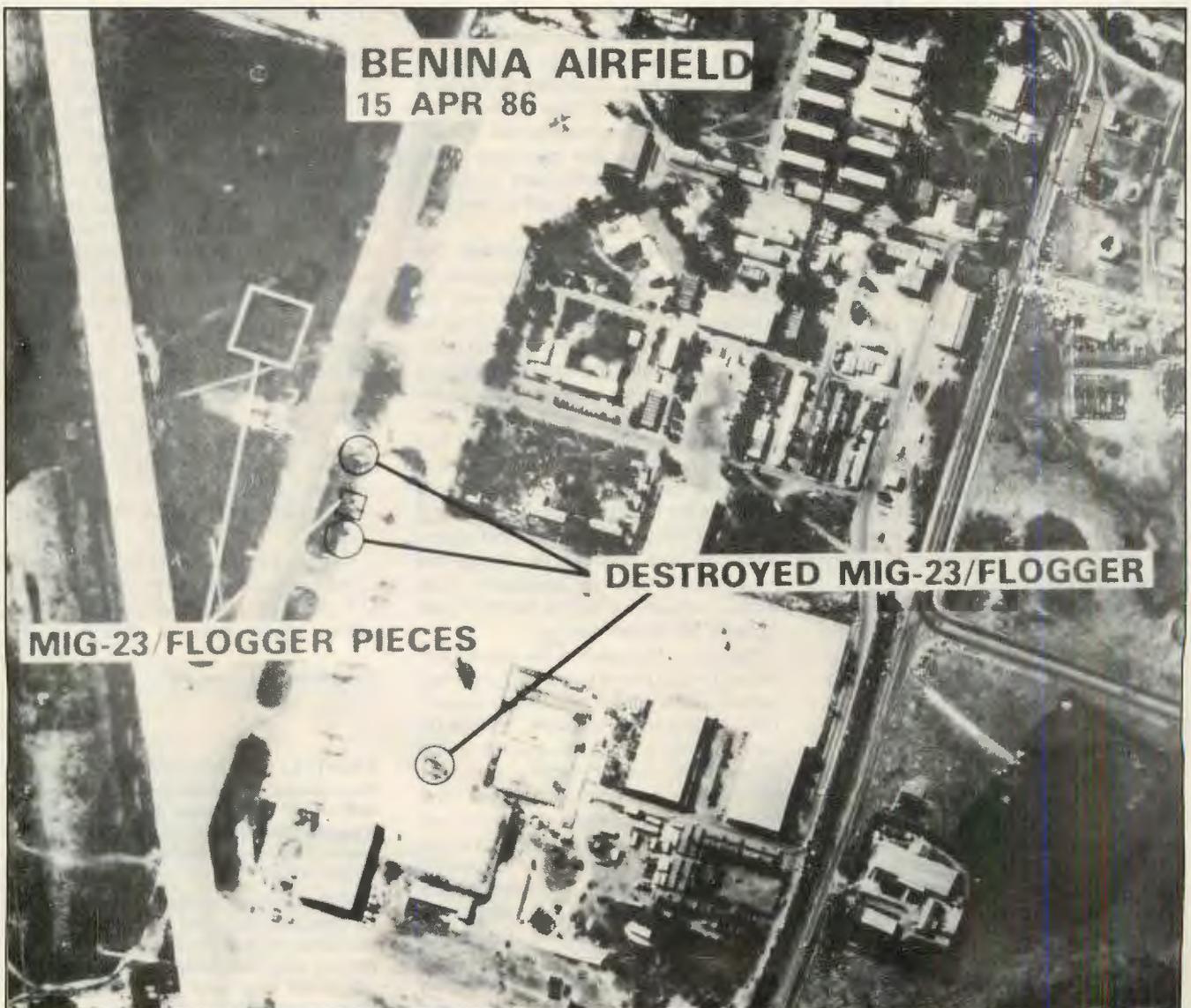
From a strictly military point of view, the main difficulties stemmed from the decision to carry out the attack at night, which added an additional complication to an already complex mission. The planners had settled on a night attack because they were fearful of early detection of the F-111s by Soviet satellites and submarine patrols. This forced the F-111 and A-6 and A-7 pilots to carry out their bombing runs without "eye contact with the targets," and it increased the likelihood of misses and target misidentification. The decision to attack at night was also predicated on the desire to avoid combat with the Libyan air force during the actual bombing operation. The Libyan air force is notorious for its reluctance to operate at night, and the U.S. planners were confident that a night attack would minimize the chances of a direct encounter with Libyan interceptors.

The night attack also increased the de-

mands on the electronic sweeping planes that guided the approaching warplanes to their targets, since the attacking planes were forced to maintain a fixed approach, relying solely on their flight and navigation instruments, and their laser guiding and infrared target identification systems. The decision to launch a night attack also forced the USAF to expose the extraordinary capabilities of the EF-111 Ravens to the watchful eyes of the Soviet navy.

Other problems were a direct result of the decision to use both Navy warplanes from the Sixth Fleet and Air Force bombers based in Great Britain, involving nearly 50 planes over the target areas and another 40 tankers. The planners were therefore forced to coordinate the arrival of the F-111s, which had taken a circuitous 2,800-nautical-mile route because France and Spain had refused to grant them overflight rights, with the attacking aircraft catapulted from the heaving decks of the U.S. aircraft carriers in the

Aerial photo showing damage to Benina airfield following American raid on Libya, 15 April 1986. Photo: AP/Wide World





Unlike other state sponsors of terrorism, Libya was a relatively accessible target for U.S. military power — and its leader, Colonel Muammar Khadafi, was a certifiable world class looney tune unlikely to get much international sympathy. Photo: AP/Wide World

Mediterranean. Instead of a quick in-out Navy air attack, the joint Navy-Air Force operation demanded split-second coordination, required the highly complicated mid-air refueling of the F-111s at night, and subjected the F-111 crews to unacceptable levels of stress and fatigue.

A daylight attack would have deployed only the carrier-launched planes from the Sixth Fleet and reduced the built-in risk of failure. So why were the F-111s employed? Sources within the Joint Chiefs of Staff admit that the decision to go for a joint operation involving both Navy and Air Force contingents can be attributed in large part to rivalries within the armed services. The Navy could have done the job, but the Air Force wanted to share the glory and test some of its newly acquired weapons systems.

In addition, Adm. Crowe had demanded more fire power and flexibility over the battle zone. Crowe's concerns were based on the fear that the situation might possibly escalate into a major confrontation that could exceed the Sixth Fleet's military capabilities. Crowe and his advisers reasoned that a scenario could develop in which Navy interceptors would be so busy defending the fleet and the returning A-6s and A-7s that the Sixth Fleet would have insufficient air power to launch a second bombing attack aimed at neutralizing the Libyan air force. Moreover, he warned that the initial wave of attackers might lose planes, compelling the fleet to engage in major rescue operations to save survivors. The addition of a third carrier or the intro-

duction of different armaments on the Navy planes would provide the cushion needed, Crowe maintained.

Even given such operational considerations, the deployment of the F-111s is still difficult to defend. According to North, if the air arm of the Sixth Fleet had had better armament for the bombing mission, it could have done the job and more than likely "saved us the embarrassment of hitting many civilian targets and causing unnecessary casualties."

Despite public pronouncements by Defense Department and other administration officials expressing satisfaction with the accuracy and results of the bombing operation, others were not so favorably impressed. After studying satellite photos, a senior intelligence official admitted that the "final results were rather poor." Few planes, it turned out, actually hit their precise targets. The Air Force planes missed the Libyan intelligence headquarters, which served as the actual command and control center for Libyan-backed terrorist operations. Located between the Swiss and French embassies, the intelligence state security complex was not hit, but the French embassy did sustain damage.

Another close miss was the Azzizia barracks. It was expected that the F-111s would turn the military installation, where Khadafi lives and works, "into dust." While the Air Force was instructed to assign "enough planes to the Azzizia barracks" to ensure this result, it did not happen. While some bombs did hit the barracks, most did not, and Khadafi escaped serious injury. Apparently the barracks were targeted by six F-111s. Three planes dropped their bomb loads on what they believed to be the Azzizia barracks, causing the damage that was reported. Two other planes suffered from malfunctions and could not identify the target and, consequently, jettisoned

their bombs over water. The sixth plane missed the target altogether.

As a counterterrorist preemptive strike, the mission must be judged, to some extent, a failure, since neither Khadafi nor his regime were eliminated. Despite exact intelligence and the highly sophisticated weapons used in the attack, the F-111s sent against the Azzizia barracks either failed to drop their bombs or for the most part missed the target. And while there has been some diminishment of Libyan-sponsored terrorism following the raid, it probably is a result more of internal disarray than any formal decision by Libya's leadership to abandon its support of terrorism as an instrument of national policy.

Khadafi reportedly was wounded during the confusion in the wake of the air raid, but few details are known about the attack. Whether it was a disenchanted Libyan army officer, a hired assassin, or a crazed bodyguard is still unknown, but apparently Khadafi became so paranoid that he temporarily moved his military capital to Sabhah, some 420 miles into the Libyan desert on the edge of the Sahara.

Two days after the attack, on Wednesday, 17 April, fighting was reported at two Libyan military camps, and the situation became so bad that the Libyan air force was called in to strafe rebellious army units. Despite the fond hopes of Bill Casey and Oliver North, the mutiny within the Libyan army was brutally suppressed with a high loss of life. Although none of the military uprisings were successful, it was clear that Khadafi's grip on the Libyan military and intelligence establishments had been weakened. Most important of all, the United States had proved its readiness and ability to strike, far from its own borders, at the state sponsors of terrorism — a message that surely did not go unrecognized in Tehran and Damascus, not to mention Tripoli. The American raid was also intended to show Washington's timorous European allies that the United States was prepared to go it alone, if necessary, to protect its citizens and national interests.

Aftermath of Operation "El Dorado Canyon"

Despite the fluidity of the situation in Libya during the immediate aftermath of the U.S. bombing raid, Khadafi was able to exact a minor degree of revenge on the

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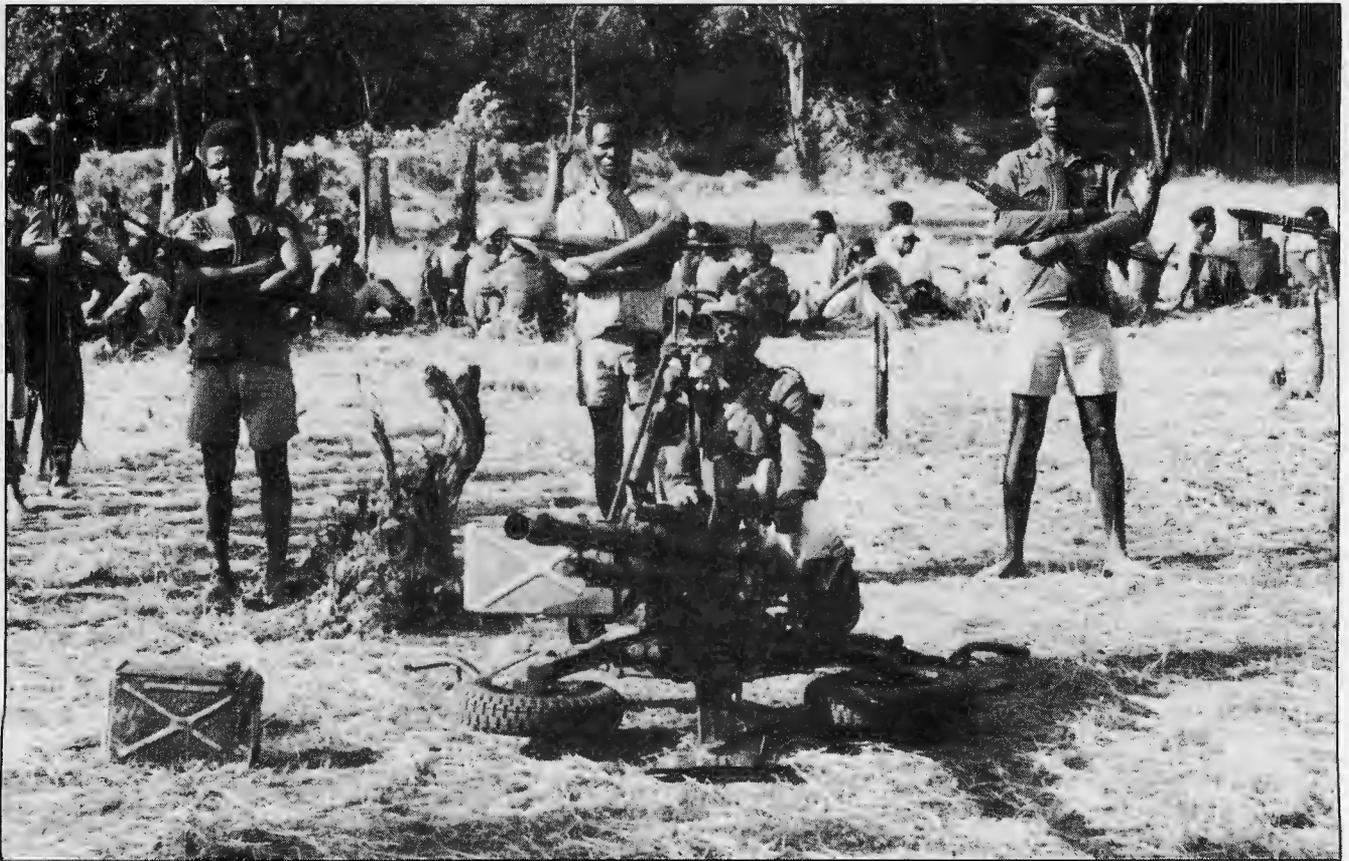
RIGHT: La Belle disco in Berlin following the explosion of a bomb planted on instructions of Libyan leader Muammar Khadafi. Blast led to U.S. decision to launch retaliatory bombing raid on Libya. Photo: Sygma

INSET: American serviceman injured in the La Belle disco in Berlin. U.S. intelligence had gotten wind of the plot, and MPs were minutes away from ordering U.S. personnel out of club when bomb went off. Photo: R. Bossu, Sygma

BELLE CLUB



FORGOTTEN FREEDOM FIGHTERS



Mozambique's RENAMO Lost in Maelstrom of Misinformation

by Sibyl Cline

Photos by Robert MacKenzie

EVER wanted to be invisible? A Voodoo witchdoctor in Suriname will tell you to put a leaf in your mouth and stand on one foot. There is, however, an easier way. You could always join RENAMO (Mozambique National Resistance) and fight alongside Afonso Dhlakama in his battle against Marxism in Mozambique.

"Join what? Who is Dhl... what's his name? Where's Mozambique?" Unfortunately, that's the general response, but the problem is that Dhlakama and Renamo *don't want* to be invisible. They are victims of a vast and complicated conspiracy of, at best, silence, and at worst, defamation. The powers that be in Africa, the United States, Great Britain, and various European countries wish that Renamo would just vanish. Perhaps in the past Renamo was useful, but now it's a political embarrassment, a fly in the southern African strategic ointment.

So, it's largely ignored and when mention must be made, Renamo is defined as something it is not. The real Renamo has been submerged in an atmosphere of murk and mystery. A look at the major players in southern Africa and their areas of interest lends some clues as to who turned out the lights and why.

I went to Mozambique in 1987, visiting both the "free Mozambique" of Renamo and the otherwise Mozambique of the FRELIMO (Front for the Liberation of Mozambique) government. I returned to "free Mozambique" in late 1988, and have just come back from a visit of nearly four weeks, walking 300 miles through Renamo territory. I don't claim to have the answers, but perhaps I have some hints.

Renamo was formed in 1978 from Mozambicans, many ex-Frelimo members, who were alarmed and dissatisfied with Frelimo's swing toward Marxism after the withdrawal of the Portuguese in 1975. With some assistance from the Rhodesian Special Air Service, approximately 800 men were under arms by 1979 when Afonso Dhlakama became their leader. After Rhodesia became Zimbabwe in 1980, South Africa gave some military training and communications support to the anti-communist rebels. In 1984, South Africa and Mozambique signed the Nkomati Accord, and South Africa stopped its support. There have, however, been persistent rumors of continued South African aid. In my recent visit I saw no evidence of any recent support from South Africa, and certainly there is no significant amount of assistance coming in. Renamo soldiers have an adequate supply of weapons, but they are of all different sorts, many of them composites made out of several different weapons, and few of them new. They have few uniforms, mostly ragged clothing, and fewer boots. Many of the soldiers are barefoot. They claim they capture all of their supplies, and from the look of it, this is believable.

In May 1989 I interviewed President Afonso Dhlakama at his headquarters in Gorongosa, and asked him about continued South African or other outside support. He



Except for a few heavily guarded cities and strategic areas such as the Beira Corridor (the oil and rail lines running from Beira on the coast into Zimbabwe), Renamo effectively controls most of Mozambique. Without aid dollars (and rubles) from both

West and East, East bloc military advisers, and heavy troop support from Zimbabwe, Malawi and Tanzania, the Marxist government of Joachim Chissano would undoubtedly collapse forthwith.

answered that Renamo has no external governmental support from any nations. Certain European private organizations give some aid, and there are some sympathetic parties in the United States which give moral support, but no material assistance. I mentioned the rumors of aid from Morocco and Oman, and he denied receiving aid from these sources. He claimed that this is Frelimo propaganda designed to explain their inability to defeat Renamo in the field.

I also interviewed a senior South African army officer while I was in Johannesburg, and he corroborated the president's re-

AFRICA WATCH

Sibyl Cline is a writer and analyst for the U.S. Global Strategy Council, and is widely traveled in Africa.

marks. He said that since the signing of the Nkomati Accord there has been no official aid to Renamo, that Frelimo uses the rumors of continued aid as an excuse for their own ineptness and as a way to explain away the popular support for Renamo. He allowed, however, that there may be some illegal private support.

From its modest beginnings Renamo has grown to 25,000 members. Twenty-one thousand have arms, and the rest are in training, waiting until Renamo can capture enough weapons to supply them as well. The 25,000 figure includes support personnel, since all support personnel are also combatants. Renamo hopes to increase the number of fighting men, but at present they place more emphasis on improving the quality of their soldiers.

They are developing and training special semi-conventional battalions, and at the moment have 13 such units. There are six in the central area around Gorongosa, two in Mapu-



to Province, two in Zambezia; and Nampula, Inhambane and Niassa provinces each have one. In contrast, Frelimo has between 30,000 and 40,000 troops, buttressed by approximately 15,000 foreign troops, mainly Zimbabwean, Malawian, and Tanzanian. (The Tanzanians were reported to have pulled out their troops this year, but President Dhlakama asserted that not all of them have gone.) There are several thousand military advisers, mostly East bloc.

Renamo's soldiers are either guerrillas or members of the semi-conventional battalions. The guerrillas are lightly armed, sparsely equipped, and are poorly clothed and shod. Members of the battalions are slightly better clothed and equipped and the battalions have support companies with a variety of heavy weapons. We visited the *Lion Battalion in May* and they had eight 14.5mm antiaircraft guns, a 122mm rocket launcher, a Russian AGS-17 30mm grenade launcher, a B-10 recoilless rifle, and 82mm mortars. In addition, the infantry companies were well-armed with RPD and PKM machine guns, and RPG-7 rocket launchers. Some other battalions are reported to have 12.7mm machine guns instead of 14.5s, and a similar variety of other heavy weapons.

Renamo has a well-organized HF radio net. During one sched we heard up to 15 stations on the air. VHF communications are non-existent. Some messages are still carried by foot or by motorcycle-borne courier.

On-going training programs in communications, tactics, first aid, demolitions

Renamo President Afonso Dhlakama. He stands ready to participate in freely run elections — but also stands ready to carry on the bush war for another 10 years against the Marxist Frelimo government.

and weapons handling are part of the daily routine of battalions not engaged in combat. Renamo uses its women members as instructors in most subjects, thereby releasing males for combat duty.

Without exception, Renamo members whom we saw displayed very high morale and confidence in their eventual victory. They were all loyal to President Dhlakama. They regarded Frelimo's counterinsurgency efforts as somewhat farcial, and Zimbabwean efforts as only slightly more serious.

I asked President Dhlakama about the impact the Zimbabwean troops have had on the conflict. He replied that their original intention had been to eliminate Renamo, but that they have not achieved that goal. He said their primary effect has been on the Mozambican people, since the main strategy of Zimbabwean forces is to bomb the civilian countryside to frighten the people and create refugees. They do this in order to deprive Renamo of their base of support. In addition, 8,000 Zimbabwean troops help guard the economically important Beira Corridor, and Zimbabweans also protect convoys traveling through the northern province of Tete. Dhlakama said he knew the Zimbabweans were feeling an economic pinch from their involvement in

the war. In 1985 and 1986, he said, they casevaced their wounded and dead back to Zimbabwe. Now they leave the bodies and some of the wounded in order to save on expensive helicopter flights. This must do wonders for troop morale.

President Dhlakama maintains that he has already won the war. Using classic guerrilla tactics, he has wrested control of almost all of the countryside from Frelimo, and isolated them in Maputo and the other major cities. He offered to take me on a walk from Gorongosa in the center of the country to within 7 kilometers of Maputo, way in the south, traveling in the daytime through territory entirely held by Renamo. I was sorry (sort of) that I didn't have the time to walk that far, and regretted that Renamo has no other means of transportation. (Actually, during the 150-mile walk-in to meet Dhlakama, I'd harbored the same regrets.) Renamo is in both phase two and phase three of insurgent warfare. In most of Mozambique they're in phase two: continuing guerrilla activity and politicization of the masses. The 13 battalions, however, represent a move into phase three.

Renamo has neither the capability nor desire to take the cities. Their goal, rather, is to force Frelimo to make political changes toward a democratic system of government. When a guarantee of change happens, they will stop the war. Specifically, President Dhlakama wants a pluralist political system, with free market economics and free and fair elections. He calls Frelimo "his brothers" and wants to take his place by



their side in a Mozambican government with two or more parties. To date, Frelimo will not do more than offer amnesty to Renamo. Even though he is prepared to stay and fight from the bush for 10 more years, President Dhlakama expressed the hope that Frelimo's increasing economic and political woes will force them to negotiate soon. Dhlakama wants the destruction of his country to end.

I toured Mozambique under government auspices in 1987, and it was painfully obvious that Frelimo's hold on the country was tenuous. Everywhere we traveled we were accompanied by truckloads of well-armed soldiers, and even despite them, we fled for the cities at night. One evening I was remarking on the beauties of the sunset near Tete, a small city in the north, when I observed that my host was removing all the government insignia from the car and hustling me into it with a palish look to his cheeks. We sped toward the town in the increasing gloom. This precipitous haste was topped the following week as we jounced through the dusk down a dirt road in a Land-Rover, exceeding speeds of 60 mph, heading for the town of Xai-Xai. Obviously Renamo rules the night. One wonders how the term "government" can apply to a group that cannot stay out after dark in its own country.

So, Western democracies are lined up in their enthusiastic appreciation of these self-supporting freedom fighters, right? Wrong. Not only do we not support them, we define them out of existence. The British, the

Despite lack of support from the United States and other Western powers, morale and discipline remain high within Renamo's ranks.

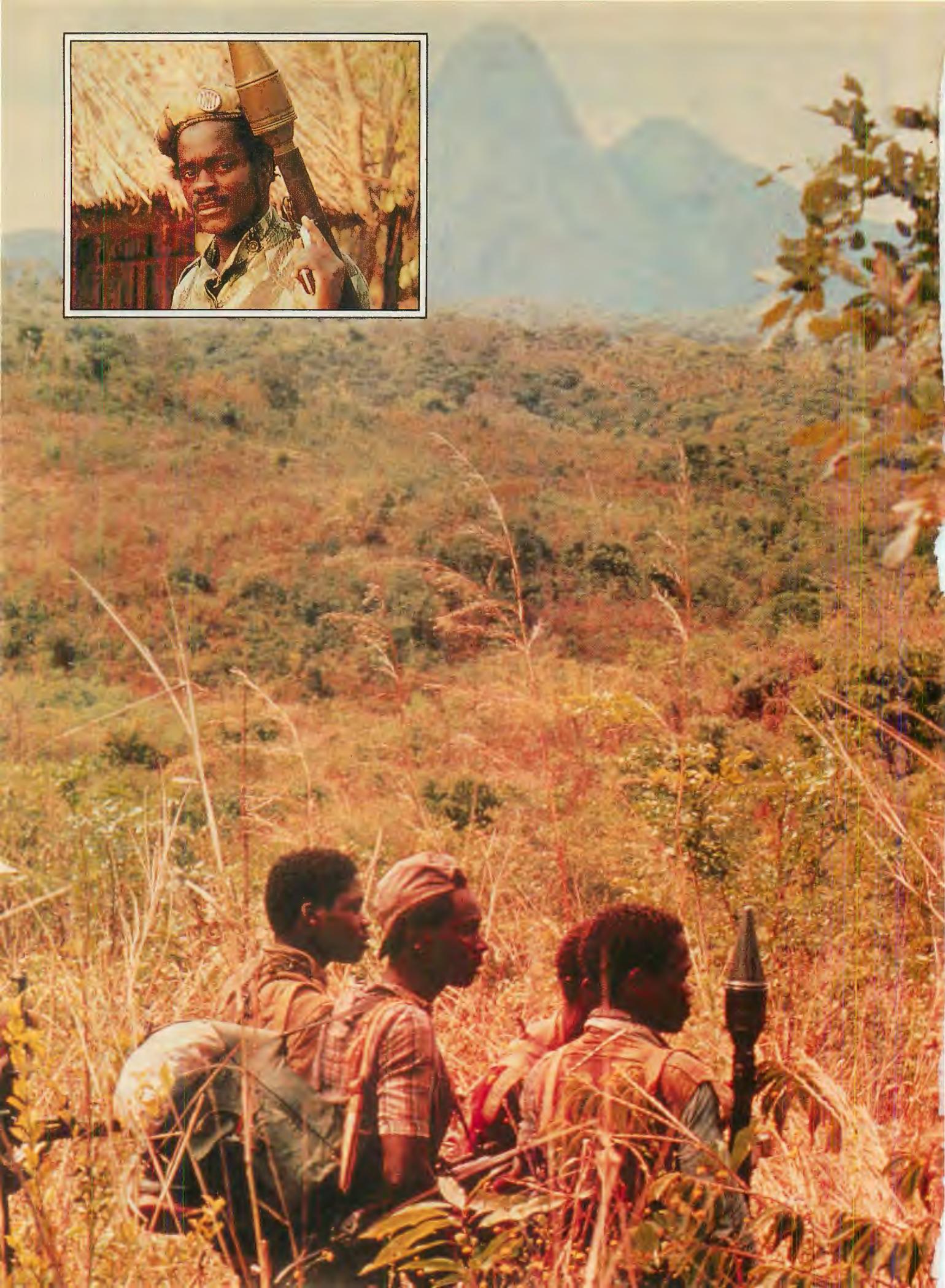
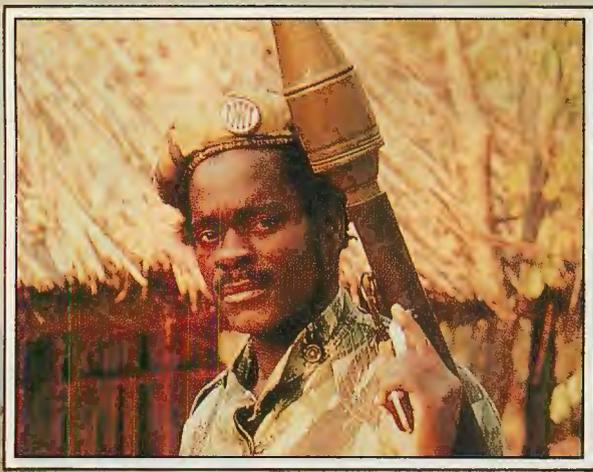
American State Department, and the Zimbabweans all join President Chissano in his disingenuous and tiresome chorus: "Bandits, bandits, they are nothing but bandits."

Chissano seems to hope that, by denying Renamo any legitimacy, he will not have to deal with them, and can prevent Western powers from talking with them as well. This strategy has been remarkably successful. Frelimo controls the news agency, AIM, in Mozambique, and news organs of neighboring countries which are largely sympathetic to Chissano pick up whatever it reports without question. These stories are then parroted in the international news media, and in this fashion a whole horrible mythology about Renamo has been born. Few politicians are willing to challenge the monster image of Renamo.

The major emphasis of these stories is that Renamo is a collection of murderous savages, interested only in rape, pillage and gratuitous slaughter, and that no government should debase itself by dealing with them. Perhaps some of these stories are true. African wars are not noted for their humanity and gentlemanly behavior, and I can easily believe that the uneducated, primitive soldiers in both Frelimo and Renamo have committed some brutal acts. Renamo, however, disciplines its soldiers se-

verely for excesses, and brutality is certainly not an official policy. On my recent lengthy walk through Mozambique, I witnessed consistent popular support for Renamo. Renamo relies on the people and cannot afford to alienate them. And the Frelimo government is often less than truthful. On the way to Gorongosa we listened to the news on the radio every night. At 2000 hours we would cluster around the fire and turn on the Voice of America or BBC. One evening we heard a report that Frelimo had captured five Renamo bases, killed 300 or so guerrillas, and had liberated about 400 civilians. A major offensive and success for the Frelimo forces was described. We tried to figure out where the attack had occurred, and as the radio reported place names, we realized that we were sitting in the middle of the alleged battle zone and had walked through it all day. The story was a complete fabrication. I was outraged, but my Renamo guides just laughed and said Frelimo put out stories like that all the time. These accounts are a sad testimony to how far a failing government is willing to bend the truth to stay in power. (One needs only look at the recent PRC news coverage of events in China to see the standards of truthfulness maintained by Marxist press agencies.)

Chissano's second favorite point in his propaganda war against Renamo is that they have no civilian administration capability. If pushed to admit that Renamo may have a few military structures and talents, he falls back on the refrain that they couldn't possibly form a government and run a country. He has been



MOZAMBIQUE SNAPSHOT

Renamo consists of the democratic Mozambican resistance guerrilla forces fighting against the Marxist-Leninist government of President Joaquim Chissano in Mozambique, a country twice the size of California in southeastern Africa. Mozambique has South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania as neighbors to the north, south and west, and the Indian Ocean on the east. The ruling Frelimo party has been in power in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, since 1975 when Portugal abruptly abandoned her colony. There were no elections. The Portuguese merely handed the government over to Frelimo, which had been waging an anti-colonialist war against them. Frelimo took the reins of power then took a hard turn to the Left, instituting Marxist political and economic systems.

The country is a testimony to the efficacy of Marxism in Africa: Frelimo crouches in Maputo and a few other cities while poverty, ignorance, dislocation, disease and hopelessness run rampant. In a country of nearly 15 million people, the government counts only 279 doctors and 12,270 hospital or "rural hospital" beds. The illiteracy rate is 86 percent. The population growth rate is 2.6 percent per year while life expectancy is only 43 years, and the infant mortality rate is a staggering 37.5 percent.

Mozambique is the fourth poorest country in the world, with a GNP per capita of U.S.\$270 in 1980, 1/65th that of the United States. In 1988, foreign debt servicing reached 120 percent of Mozambique's total export earnings, and the currency has been devalued 1,000 percent since 1987.

Inefficiency and the ongoing war with Renamo have virtually wrecked the economy. In 1985 cashew nut production was 1/36th what it was in 1973, corn

production was 1/2, bananas and cotton were 1/4, electricity 1/7, and revenues from tourism 1/300th.

There are 650,000 refugees in Malawi alone, more than two million people have been driven from their homes, and six million face chronic food shortages. The major cities experience frequent and lengthy power cuts, there is no electricity in the countryside, and no reliable rail or road transportation anywhere in Mozambique. The country is a shambles. In the past Chissano received significant help from the Soviets and the East bloc. By some estimates, Mozambique owes \$4.3 billion to the Soviets, and is dependent upon them for 90 percent of its oil. Recently aid has been pouring in from Western nations including the United States, Great Britain and Italy, and also some from South Africa. Chissano calls his country "non-aligned," presumably because he has his hand out in all directions, not just one.

very successful in foisting this misconception onto the world's public opinion.

The most common vision of Renamo is that they are a band of "anti-Robin Hoods," taking from the poor to give to themselves, and committing no small amount of mayhem in the process. My experience on my 300-mile walk does not support this picture. Instead, I saw schools, clinics, a hospital, and a large civilian political meeting. There were posters of President Dhlakama everywhere; he has obviously started campaigning for his long-hoped-for elections. The people interacted in a very friendly way with our soldier-escorts. We were given food and directions, and while I received a variety of curious looks, no one exhibited fear or dislike. At Gorongosa I had interviews with several of Renamo's civilian officials who described to me their current organization, and their goals for their country. I spoke with the chiefs of the departments of Ideology, Education and Culture, Agriculture, Health and Internal Administration. Each department is organized at the provincial, regional, district, local and zonal levels, and from the district level down promotes a parallel traditional organization. This consists of a paramount chief at the district level, and below him local chiefs, subchiefs, and headmen of zones. Each headman administers four or five households. These structures are established and working in all of

RIGHT: B-10 recoilless rifle captured from Frelimo forces.

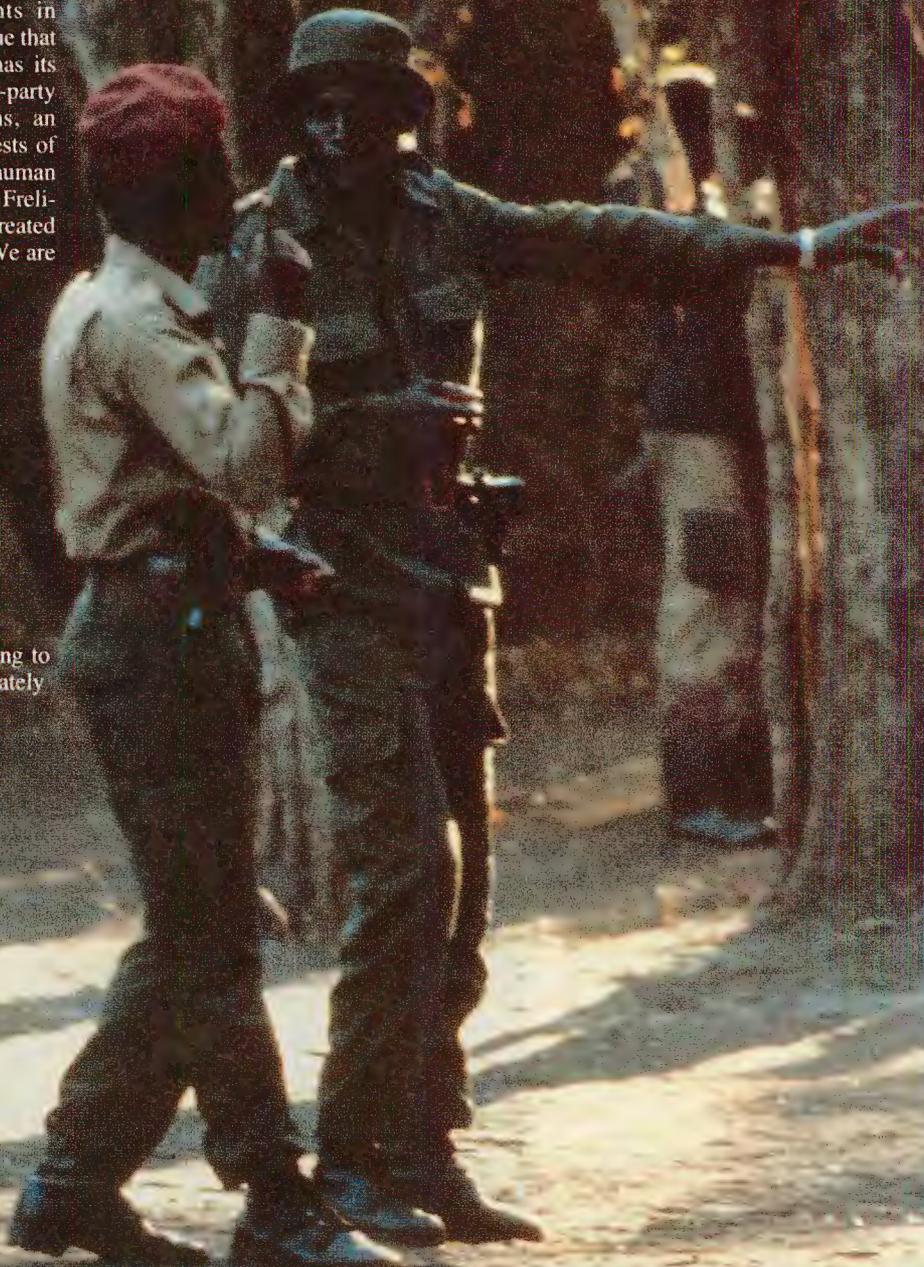
LEFT: President Afonso Dhlakama claims Renamo has won the military war in Mozambique. It's evident to many foreign observers who have traveled inside the country that Renamo does, at least, control much of the countryside. Photo & inset: Eric Girard



Renamo's liberated areas.

Chissano's last favorite jibe against Renamo is that they were created by the white Rhodesians and were then taken over by the white South Africans; that they are nothing but puppets in the ongoing racist war against legitimate African leaders. President Dhlakama is, of course, aware of the propaganda war against him, and at the end of my interview he volunteered the following remarks:

"Renamo is not as it is portrayed on the outside. We have been fighting since 1977, young and old, weak and strong, because we are fighting for the wishes of the people. If we were as portrayed by Frelimo, we would have disappeared long ago. We are a genuine popular organization. In its early stages Renamo had some assistance from Rhodesia, but it is still Mozambican. Frelimo itself was formed in Tanzania, but no one says it is Tanzanian. Renamo was formed in Mozambique and fights in Mozambique. It is nonsensical to argue that we are not Mozambican. Renamo has its own democratic objectives: a multi-party government, free and fair elections, an assembly which represents the interests of the people, freedom of speech, and human rights. All of these do not exist under Frelimo. The people of Mozambique created Renamo and continue to support it. We are not purely a military organization, we are a political organization... the military arm was created to achieve our political aims. We do not want to destroy Frelimo, that is not our objective. We want political change. If Frelimo wants to talk seriously about peace, we will leave our weapons. Renamo is for peace, but a real peace in which the people can vote for their choice of government. The power in Mozambique must be with the 14,000,000 people, not with a military minority. The party should belong to the people, not vice versa. Unfortunately the West doesn't know Renamo."



LEFT: A high level of military proficiency exists within the Renamo organization, many of whose officers have defected from the ranks of the Marxist Frelimo forces.

INSET: Weapons and equipment are in short supply; Renamo relies upon what it can capture from Frelimo forces to outfit its troops.

These are not the words of an illiterate, blood-thirsty bandit.

So why does the West refuse to know Renamo?

Let's start with the British. I met with the British ambassador while I was in Maputo in 1987. He was a small man who described himself as a "humble scribe sitting in his own cubbyhole in a dangerous world." He was balding, had pale eyebrows, and wore a violently pink striped shirt. A fluid talker, he was perfectly capable of saying "Pretoria" with no recognizable vowels. He was definitely a world-weary sophisticate, leaving fervid, idealistic opinions to us Americans. He said the British did not have high hopes for that part of Africa, that the prognosis was not happy, but that there were pockets of hopefulness. He thought we needed to deal in realpolitik, not idealism. Besides, he said, the Mozambican government was moving toward non-alignment.

Reading between the lines, I decided that "realpolitik" meant two things to the British. First, they've invested some national pride in the survival of Zimbabwe, their ex-colony; and second, they wish to preserve established British economic interests. In addition, they use their support for Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's black African socialist leader, to buy themselves good will among the other black "Frontline" African states. Mugabe, of course, supports Chissano, his fellow black African socialist, and loathes Renamo, which provided the Rhodesians with some intelligence on the movements of Mugabe's guerrillas during the war. More currently, Renamo on many occasions has blown up the economically vital Beira Corridor to Zimbabwe, creating an expensive thorn in Mugabe's side.

The British have invested more than their national prestige in Zimbabwe. A large portion of economic interests in Zimbabwe are British, and they also have significant economic interest in Chissano's Mozambique. Lonrho, a London-based conglomerate run

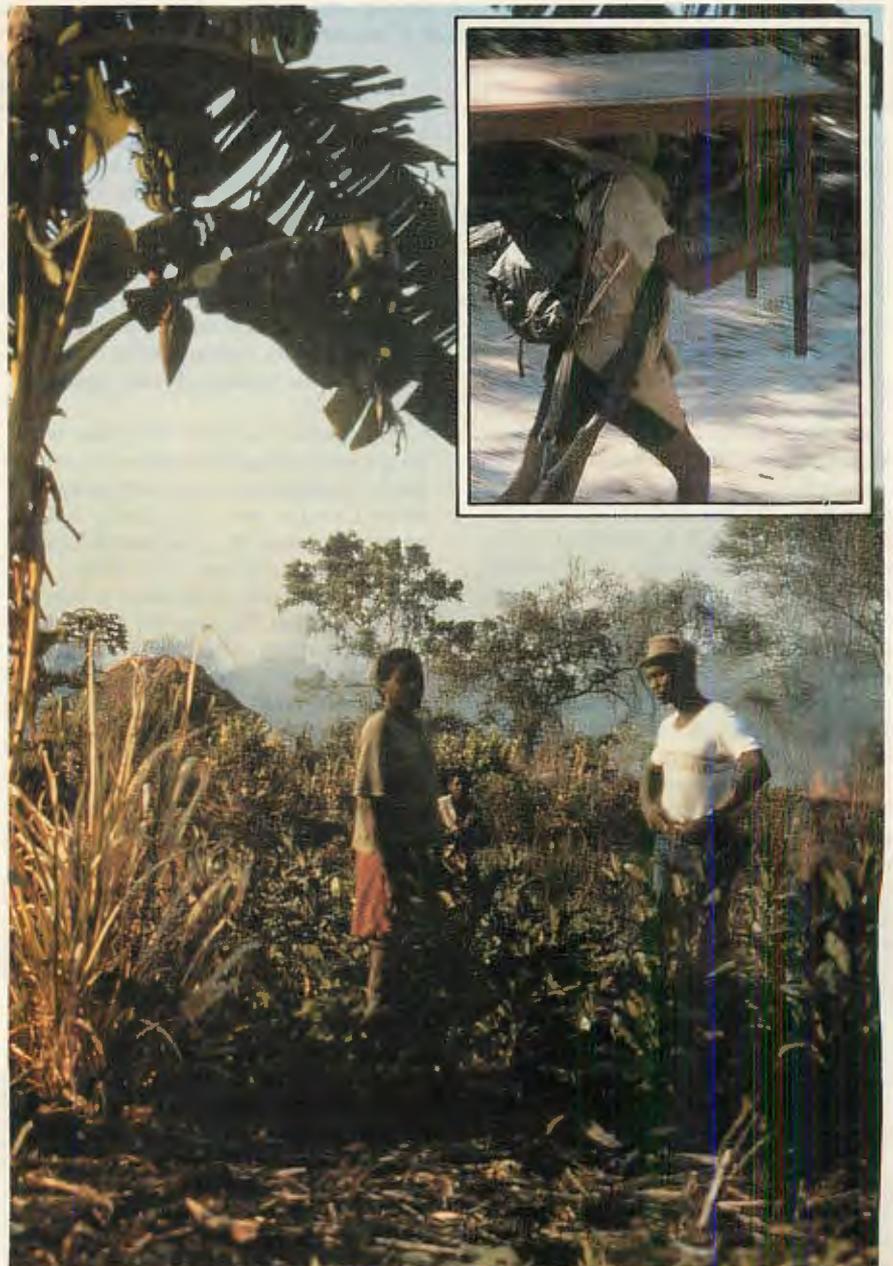
by Tiny Roland, is the largest employer in Zimbabwe, and just under half of Lonrho's 200.2 million pounds profit in 1987 came from southern Africa. Lonrho is one of the few foreign companies operating in Mozambique. Most investors are frightened by the "security situation," a gentle way of expressing that they are afraid of being blown up by Renamo. Lonrho, however, has its own security forces and has cut a deal with the government which is extremely preferential.

I interviewed John Hewlett, a Lonrho employee, while I was in Maputo in 1987, and he told me that for 10 years the company is tax and duty free, their employees pay no taxes, and the company has an external bank account and controls all the foreign exchange they earn. So, the British have an interest in maintaining the status quo. Sticking with Mugabe and Chissano is the prudent, if unprincipled, path.

American policy toward Mozambique is even more Byzantine. The Reagan Doctrine

called for support for freedom fighters the world over, but no support was ever given to Renamo. Why? Because the State Department has been calling the shots, and has two reasons for wanting to define Renamo as "bandits" and deny them freedom fighter status.

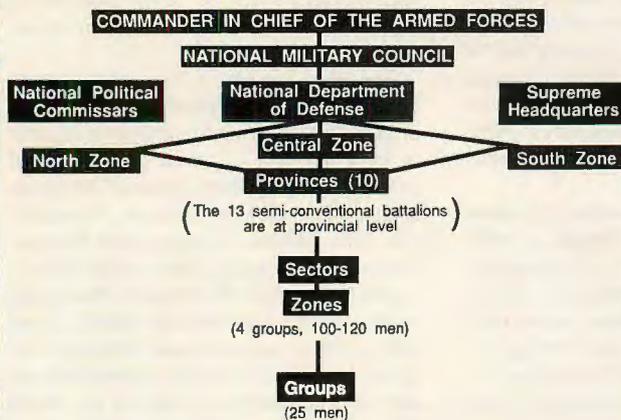
The first concerns U.S. policy toward South Africa. The United States has been distancing itself from South Africa in order to force the pace of social change in that country, and to mollify a group of American congressmen including Simon, Kennedy, Crockett, Dellums, Conyers and Metzenbaum, who, flinging logic to the winds, equate civil rights experiences in the United States with the apartheid situation in South Africa. These congressional luminaries stir up the liberal fervor of their constituencies and get themselves re-elected by South Africa bashing — a marvelously cheap and effective shot. They get a lot of opportunities to posture, and are not held responsible for getting results. In their minds and in the



RIGHT: Renamo soldier checks directions from local civilian. Rather than running in terror upon their approach, author notes that locals were friendly and helpful during her 300-mile trek through Mozambique.

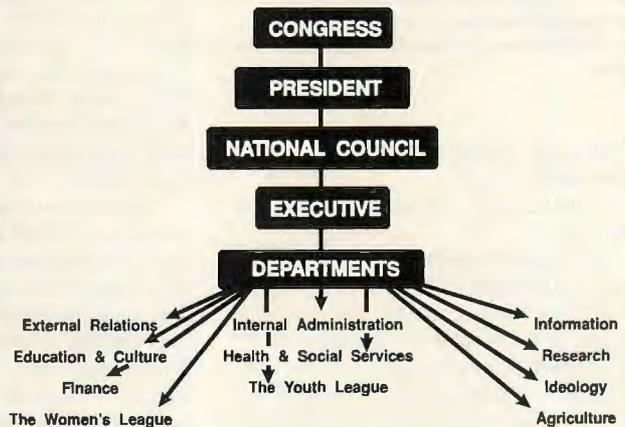
INSET: Literally everything moves on foot inside Renamo-controlled territory. The infamous Gersony Report alleges that porters are forcibly conscripted and beaten — something author Cline and photographer MacKenzie have never seen during repeated trips inside "free Mozambique."

RENAMO MILITARY ORGANIZATION



It's easy enough to put an organization on paper, but Renamo's actually exists and functions as shown — much to the chagrin of the opposition. Command and control is sometimes difficult, but author notes an efficient high frequency radio network with up to 15 stations on the air. Other traffic, however, is still carried by foot or motorcycle-borne courier.

RENAMO'S CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION



In essence a shadow government, Renamo's civilian administration is in operation inside "free Mozambique." Each department works in parallel with the traditional tribal organization of chiefs, subchiefs, and headmen, thereby forming a close liaison with the local population. Its largest problem area lies in external relations: Renamo at this stage is simply ineffective in getting its message out to the world.

opinion of the State Department, the United States cannot support Renamo because Renamo was at one time supported by the South Africans, and so have been forever tarnished and tainted by that touch. (Never mind that Angola's Jonas Savimbi of UNITA has always been supported by the South Africans. That's different.)

The second reason is that Renamo does not fit into the State Department's grand plan for southern Africa. For the past few years, then Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker had been promoting his policy of "Constructive Engagement." The basic tenet of Constructive Engagement is that it is possible to wear Marxist countries away from socialism and bring them, repentant, to the Western camp. This policy suits the State Department which is an institution geared toward diplomacy — not conflict — with existing governments, and which is wedded to the status quo as opposed to possibly upsetting unknowns.

Crocker invested a good deal of his personal prestige in the success of this approach. It could be argued that his policy has had some effect. On 3 June 1989, the *Washington Post* reported that the Soviets had promised to take their military advisers out of Mozambique by 1991. This is undoubtedly a step in the right direction. However, the Soviets are cutting their losses all over the world, particularly in Africa, because of pressing economic problems at home. Just because they cannot afford Chissano anymore does not mean that he is not a Marxist.

Whatever the merits of Constructive Engagement, Crocker followed his course with a sometimes excessive zeal. His end, unfortunately, seems to have justified any means. He steadfastly refused to have any dealings with

Renamo, echoing Chissano in terming them "bandits." He channelled dollars and support to Chissano. He gave, ostensibly, complete credence to reports issued by Maputo and ignored information to the contrary. He continued to do this even after it became obvious that Renamo had to be dealt with in order to stop the war. Whether this was blindness, or inertia, or a fanatic adherence to his own policy, the war has undoubtedly been prolonged by his attitude.

For example, in April 1988 plans were being made to bring Dhlakama to the United States. Arrangements were well underway when Crocker was personally asked whether he would try to prevent Dhlakama from coming. This was on a Friday. He denied that he could do anything to impede Dhlakama's visit. The next day he called in the South African ambassador and raked him over the coals, asking if the South Africans were involved and saying that a visit by Dhlakama would be an insult to the United States; the United States would consider it a hostile act by the South African government. He obviously assumed that Dhlakama would arrange to leave Mozambique through South Africa. Then, the next Monday, he released the Gersony Report. This may have been a coincidence, maybe not, but the effect was devastating.

This report, entitled "Summary of Mozambican Refugee Accounts of Principally Conflict-Related Experience in Mozambique," was written by Robert Gersony on contract to the State Department. It has had an incalculably disastrous effect on Renamo's reputation in government and media circles. It accuses Renamo of murdering at least 100,000 civilians, of institutionalized rape, beatings, lootings, abductions and mutilations. The report was received as gospel, and rumors of Pol Pot-

style atrocities scurried around Washington. Newspapers reported all of its ghoulish details. Yet, many questions can be asked about the methodology of the report and about the author's occasionally strange conclusions.

Gersony writes about conditions inside Renamo-controlled territory, drawing his conclusions from information given him by refugees in camps both inside and outside of Mozambique. He most likely has accurately and ingeniously presented his data. The problem is with his data. Surely it is a minimum academic research standard to have set foot inside an area about which you propose to write, and to use evidence more direct than hearsay.

The author admits that his sample had some problem spots: He had to speak through interpreters, few interviewees could count above 10, and most were primitive, superstitious people, utterly dependent on the authorities who ran the camps in which they lived. Gersony writes:

"There were no complaints against the government soldiers from refugees inside Mozambique. All of the complaints against these came from refugees outside Mozambique. This may reflect a natural hesitation of refugees in the government controlled areas to express criticism of the soldiers under whose protection they live."

The author did not seem to be aware that these restraints on expression also were true in refugee camps in Malawi, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. I have visited with several missionary families who work in the Malawian camps. They all assert that Frelimo agents have free access to the camps, and that all are infiltrated and unofficially regulated by SNASP, Frelimo's secret police. This assertion has been confirmed by a senior Malawian security official who asked to

remain unnamed. The same conditions prevail in Zimbabwe and Tanzania, countries friendly to Frelimo and violently opposed to Renamo. Of Gersony's 25 sites, 22 were in these countries. The remaining three were in South Africa.

The remarkable content and similarities in the reports can be partially attributed to two things: a simple people's desire to please those who feed them, and their universal exposure to Frelimo propaganda against Renamo. More than likely, whatever they heard on the radio, they repeated to their benefactors. Also, once in the camps, they undoubtedly absorbed the party line from Frelimo agents and earlier refugees and, out of fear and peer pressure, adhere to it. I would question the "high level of credibility" the author assigns to refugee accounts. Even his final statistics have a ring of fantasy. "Thus," he writes, "the combined negatives concerning Renamo were 96%, versus 17% for Frelimo. Combined positive plus 'no complaints' concerning Frelimo were 83%, versus 4% for Renamo." Both Renamo and Frelimo draw their troops from the same pool — largely uneducated, unsophisticated, bush-born Mozambicans. It defies common sense that their behavior in a military situation would be so different that one side would commit all of the atrocities, and the other side none.

It is also irrational to presume that Renamo trains its troops to be barbarous. I asked President Dhlakama about the Gersony Report and he replied:

"The Gersony Report was an exercise to discredit Renamo. It was commissioned with that in mind. If Renamo had been guilty as accused, they would not be in the position they are now. Every guerrilla relies on the civilian population. It makes no sense to destroy the population. Renamo would blind itself by alienating the people. It is obvious what refugees would say in camps infiltrated and controlled by the FPLM [Mozambican military]. As soon as the journalists went away, the FPLM would punish those who talked against them."

I asked him why there were so many refugees — 650,000 at last count in Malawi alone. He answered that Frelimo has a conscious policy of creating refugees. With the assistance of the Zimbabwean air force, they use bombing and intimidation to alienate the civilian population from Renamo. "The Zimbabweans," he said, "know from their own experience of a guerrilla war in Rhodesia how much guerrillas rely on the population." One day on our walk I heard jets conducting bombing runs, and they did not appear to be near any military target.

My missionary friends analyze the refugee problem in a way similar to Dhlakama's. The people hear the bombing, or experience some war-related incident, and they run away. They come to the camps where they are housed and fed, and receive more medical care than they've ever had. They don't have to work. So they stay. One missionary argued that the international aid was creating a mass of idlers out of pre-



viously hard-working farmers, and that food aid should be cut off so they would go back to their farms in Mozambique. However, word of free food spreads back, and more come.

Gersony asserts that Renamo divides all of the areas which it controls into "tax areas, control areas, and destruction areas" in which the population are regulated by methods ranging from severe to inhumanly brutal. I walked through Tete and Sofala provinces on my way to Gorongosa, and at least in those areas I can testify that this alleged structure does not exist. We walked all day, for 19 days, and our guides were often unsure of the route. Frequently they would stop and ask the local people for directions, and we would wander off again. Several times our group requested a different stopping place, or a different route, and they always complied. The route could not

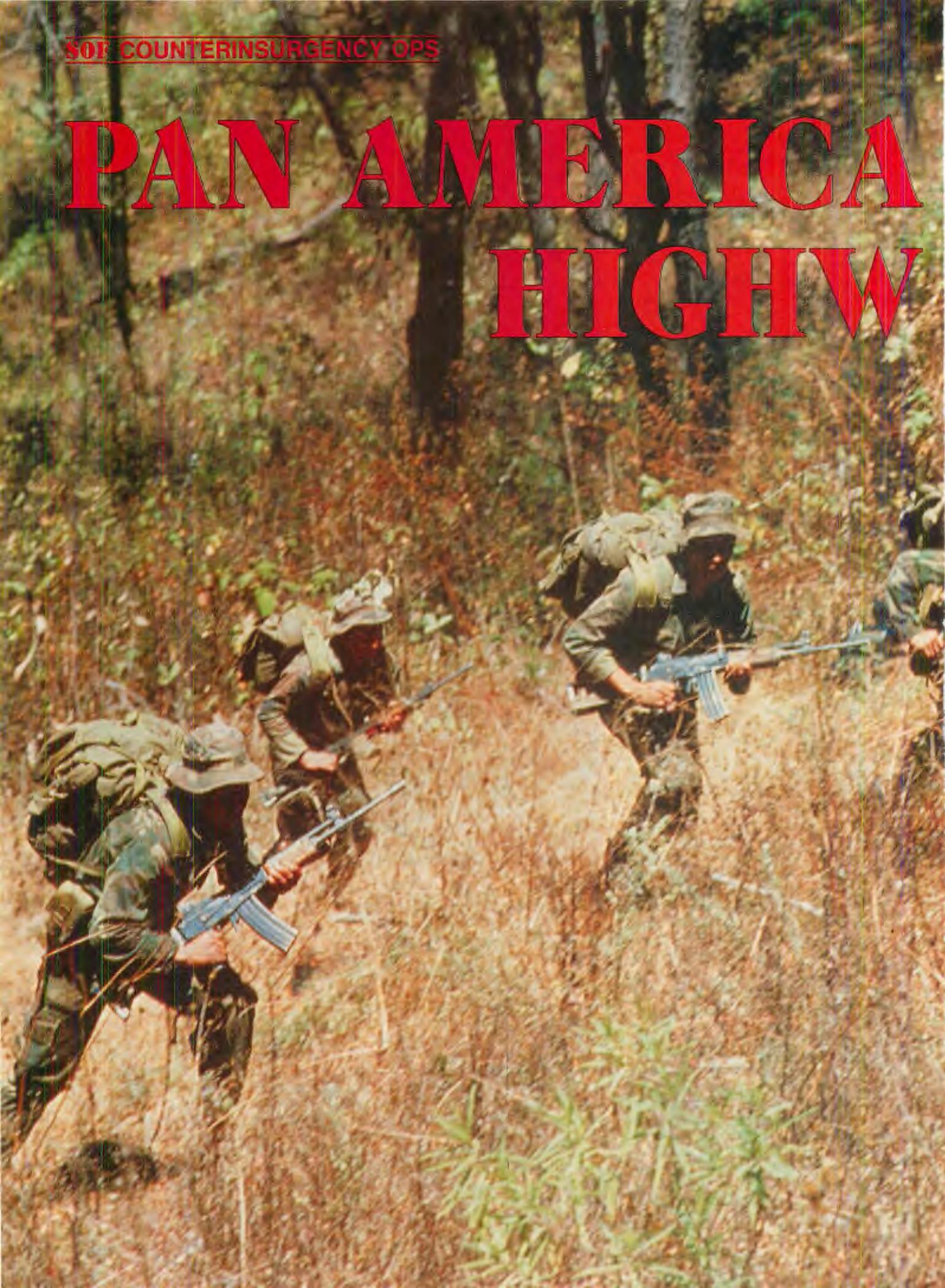
Renamo goes after the infrastructure. Frelimo's military forces can't defeat nor even contain Renamo, and neither can the thousands of foreign troops — mainly Zimbabwean — called in to keep the Chissano regime from crumbling.

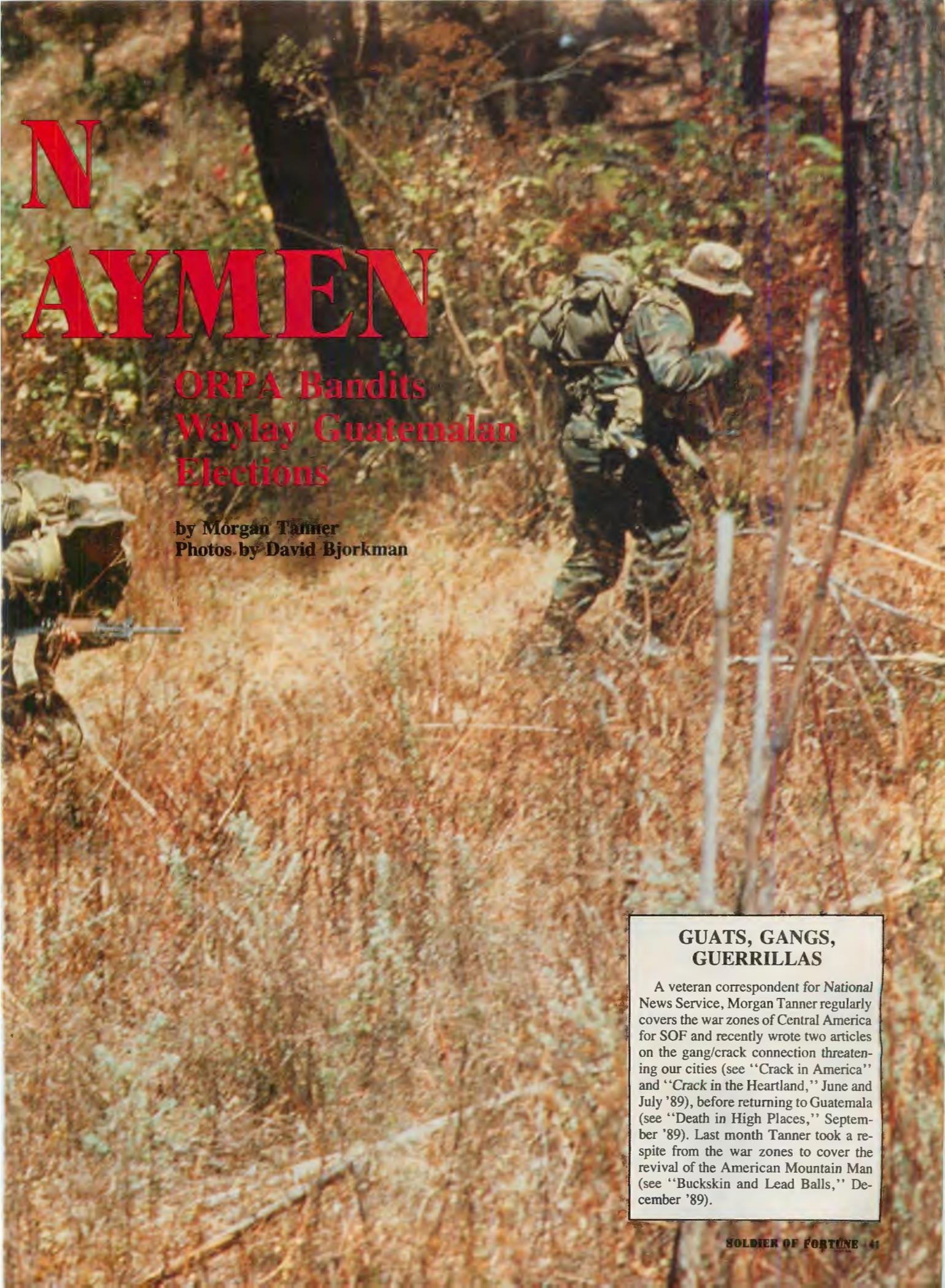
have been planned in order to hide the massive destruction, starvation and brutalization of the people that Gersony describes. (I was often convinced that our route wasn't planned at all. Our guides didn't use compasses, and some days we would walk in great loops, going along the best available paths. We often changed course, following local advice.) In fact, the population was friendly, curious and unafraid. We most often slept near a headman's hut, and once

Continued on page 88

SOI COUNTERINSURGENCY OPS

PAN AMERICA HIGHWAY





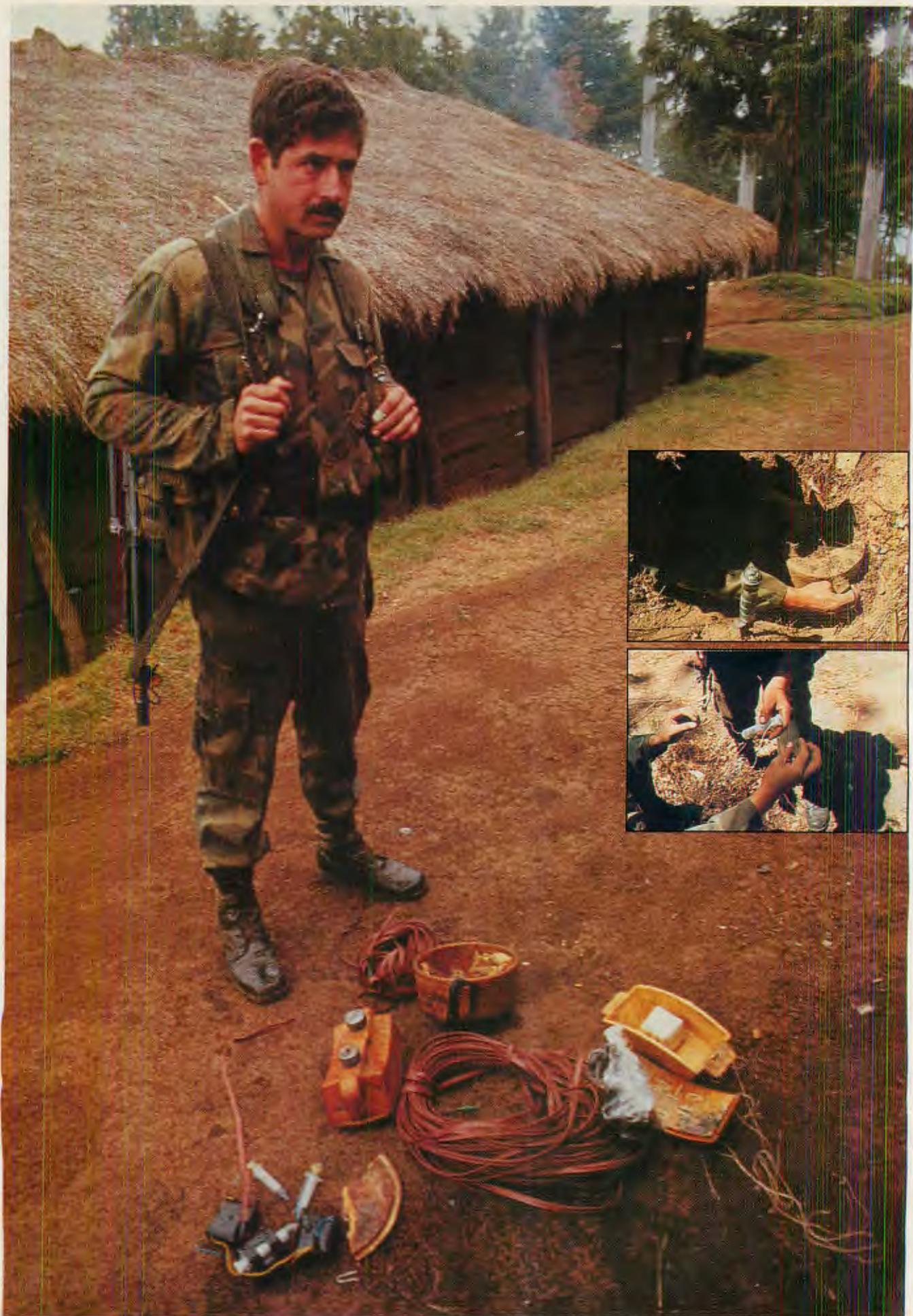
N AYMEN

ORPA Bandits Waylay Guatemalan Elections

by Morgan Tanner
Photos by David Bjorkman

GUATS, GANGS, GUERRILLAS

A veteran correspondent for *National News Service*, Morgan Tanner regularly covers the war zones of Central America for SOF and recently wrote two articles on the gang/crack connection threatening our cities (see "Crack in America" and "Crack in the Heartland," June and July '89), before returning to Guatemala (see "Death in High Places," September '89). Last month Tanner took a respite from the war zones to cover the revival of the American Mountain Man (see "Buckskin and Lead Balls," December '89).



“WE stacked the wounded into the chopper like firewood,” Guatemalan Air Force helicopter pilot Julio Cesar Santamarina declared. “When we unloaded them, many were dead, but one man on the bottom, who was covered with blood, suddenly sat up and said, ‘My God, I’m alive.’”

“They [the guerrillas] were using .30 and .50 caliber [machine] guns,” recalls Santamarina. “Then they fired a Chinese stick [RPG]. When I heard that, my hair stood up through my helmet.”

The grenade was apparently aimed at the chopper, but instead it hit a public bus. This tragic incident took place near Chimaltenango in 1981, but more recent RPG attacks have turned out more favorably.

It’s hard to believe that communist Guatemalan ORPA (Organization of People in Arms) insurgents would be so reckless in their pursuit of army troops that they would fire three PG-7 rockets at a convoy of trucks traveling north on the Pan American highway just 60 clicks from the capital, but recently they did just that. The Pan Am is a major artery, carrying tourists in rental cars, buses crammed with Indians, and truckloads of corn, Pepsi and Gallo beer. Yet, as the gears turn resolutely toward the presidential election in November 1990, disruption is the name of the game that the insurgents are playing with renewed vigor.

As our Jeep rolls toward the Red Zone of guerrilla activity outside Chimaltenango to an outpost called Cabrican, Major Wolf, who is on the command staff of Military Zone 302, instructs the driver to stop where the rocket attack occurred some two weeks before. The driver, who was in the convoy, pulls onto the grassy shoulder of the Pan Am, a two-lane swath of asphalt that dissects the pine forest north and south. North is “liberated,” according to Colonel Jose Quilo, commander of the area’s military base, meaning that the activity of the communist insurgents is mainly political. But in the rugged mountains on the south side of the highway, army troops battle guerrilla troops from ORPA on a frequent basis.

Standing beside the Pan Am, Maj. Wolf and the driver seem jumpy. Major Wolf (his name has been changed at his request) points to a wooded hill back down the road

LEFT: At the base camp Cabrican — 8 kilometers from the heavy fighting and the newly abandoned main ORPA camp — this paracaidista shows some of the mines, wires and syringes recovered from ORPA mines. This unit lost its captain a few days before our visit, when a mine exploded and blew shrapnel through his eye. The mine exploded in his face and faces of a medic and radio operator.

TOP INSET: Once discovered and its triggering device disarmed, a “cooking pot”-type ORPA mine is carefully removed.

BOTTOM INSET: Guat trooper shows recovered syringes which ORPA adapts as initiating devices.



ORPA country, the thorn in Guatemala’s side as she moves toward presidential elections in November 1990.

on the south side. The way he tells it, a convoy of four trucks carrying one platoon was lumbering up the highway on Friday, 3 March about 1100 on its way to Tecpan. The going was slow. Then, as the last truck rolled past the curve, three rockets from an RPG-7 were fired from the crest of the hill. None of the vehicles were hit, and the rebels evaporated into the gullies of the deep forest.

Those responsible for the current attack on the army convoy are thought by the army to be ORPA guerrillas. But that conclusion is unconfirmed.

“Maybe it was a few guerrillas or maybe it was none,” states Wolf cryptically. The grenade launcher *might* have been fired by militant civilians who quickly blended into the local population. “That’s what’s so difficult about guerrilla warfare,” he adds. “You can never be sure who the players are.”

While the individual “players” may be unknown, troops from Zone 302 know too well the guerrilla activity of ORPA, one of Guatemala’s three main factions of insurgents. Too many have felt firsthand the effects of ORPA’s guerrilla campaign and its diabolical, indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines and claymores.

“ORPA is the most militaristic of the groups,” notes Col. Quilo. “EGP [Guerril-

la Army of the Poor] is more integrated with social movements and politics.”

ORPA began in 1979, reportedly after eight years of preparation, as a splinter group of the organization FAR (Rebel Armed Forces). It first operated on the Pacific Coast, and then moved into the central highlands and the capital. It was nearly wiped out in the early ’80s, and now has only about 150 troops according to army estimates. But a guerrilla force can swell as rapidly as a corpse in the sun when social and economic conditions are right. And Chimaltenango is a strategic plum worth fighting for.

Located in a high plain near the foot of the mountains, Chimaltenango has only about six blocks of paved streets except for the Pan Am Highway. Its population is primarily ladino and Indian. The area was heavily damaged in the earthquake of 1976, and as organizations moved in to help, they were infiltrated by guerrillas, according to Quilo. The area was so heavily pro-guerrilla in 1980 that it was on the verge of being declared “liberated” by communist insurgents. An army search-and-destroy operation reclaimed the area and now army base Zone 302 is a major presence in the area, where it sits 6 clicks outside Chimaltenango on the road to Antigua, an elegant little city



TOP: Young soldier humps aging M1919A6 7.62x63mm Browning machine gun sans buttstock, almost assuredly older than himself. Old Brownings will never die, nor will the hope of Guatemalans to build a democracy in spite of communist insurgencies.

ABOVE: Soldier with M79 40mm grenade launcher on patrol near Chimaltenango.

made rich by a large settlement of Americans and tourists.

“Chimaltenango is a strategic point in the road network going north or west to the coast,” observes Quilo. “It’s in the breadbasket of the country, and the people here are better informed and smarter because of their proximity to the capital.”

As we stand with Maj. Wolf on the Pan Am, traffic whizzes by. In this land of few phones, how did the rebels know the convoy was coming?

“There are many informers,” notes Maj. Wolf.

One is reminded of Nebaj, a town in Guatemala’s northern mountains, where foot patrols were regularly ambushed just outside town. The slaughter finally stopped

ABOVE: Army troops from Military Zone 302, armed with Galil 5.56x45mm assault rifles, dismount a troop truck during maneuvers outside of Chimaltenango.

when someone put two and two together and noticed that the church bell always rang just as the patrols were leaving camp.

Turning off the Pan Am, the driver takes a dirt road toward Cabrican. To the south stand the 8,000-foot-high mountains La Cumbre and Balamjuya. With Los Encuentros, at the headwaters of Quehrada Quigiya, the three peaks make up the “triangle of death,” the Red Zone near Chimaltenango, where infantry troops battle ORPA guerrillas. The rutted dirt track winds past increasingly smaller villages until the tiny farms give way to a wilderness that is gouged by steep, impassable gullies. There is no water in these mountains, a major problem for the army troops who patrol them. It has started to rain, and Maj. Wolf peers through the path of the windshield wipers, his hands on his Galil, scanning the ridges for movement. There are no civilian patrols in this area to help the army stave off guerrilla activity.

TOP: Other quality arms in the Guatemalan inventory include the FN MAG-58, shown on maneuvers outside Chimaltenango. The central area around Chimaltenango is the breadbasket of the country.

ABOVE: Galils in Guatemalan service were mostly purchased during period Jimmy Carter embargoed U.S. arms shipments. Soldier here carries standard ARM.

Back at Zone 302, Col. Quilo traced the area of fighting on a map in his office, a paneled, sunlit room in a prefab house. ORPA operations have been taking place in the mountains around Chimaltenango since 1987. Quilo’s efforts against them dovetail with those of another command in Solola, near the famous Lake Atitlan.

“My objective is to form a wall between the insurgents and the populated areas, keeping them from crossing the Pan Am Highway,” he declares. “My job is to stop them with an operation from east to west, to destroy them.”

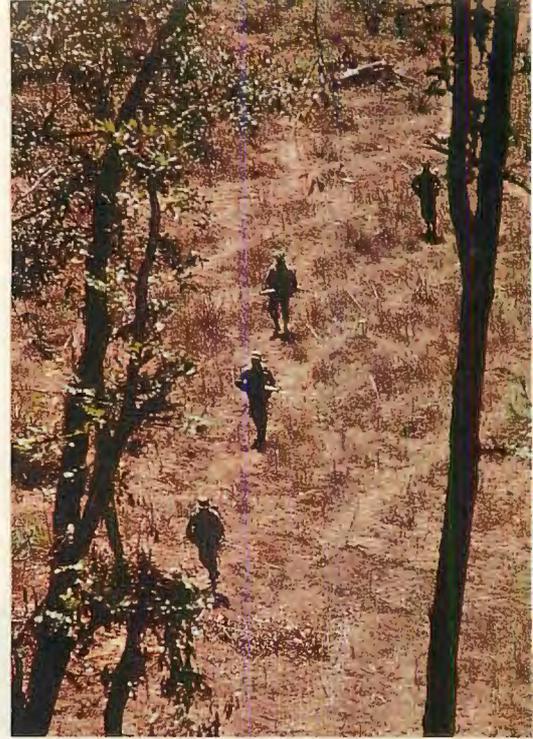
ORPA personnel camp in groups of eight or 10 to provide security to a main camp of as many as 50. Colonel Quilo stabs his



LEFT: In the tradition of jungle fighters everywhere, paracaidista camp at Cabrican uses earthen bunkers and punji sticks around its perimeter.

ABOVE: Defenses such as earthen bunkers and punji sticks make up the perimeter of the paracaidista camp at Cabrican. The last heavy firefight here with the guerrillas was the week prior to author's arrival. Soldiers here say they relish the fight when the guerrillas attack directly, as they don't have to worry about the deadly mines and can just get down to business.

RIGHT: A patrol crosses an open field outside of Chimaltenango. Army patrols must always be alert for mines, staying off main trails which run through gullies and along ridges.



finger into the map, at a point near Cabrican, with a vengeance.

"This was their main camp," he informs us, "but we arrived two days after it was abandoned. One thing we found was an empty bottle of Johnny Walker Black Label."

That's what Captain Ana, a female ORPA member high in the chain of command, likes to drink, Quilo told us.

"We know their troops are divided now," he adds. "They are in confusion, and we continue to force them to move."

We arrive at Cabrican in a blinding rain. Lieutenant Pena (not his real name), the acting commander, leads us through a dim bunker to a storeroom-cum-conference room, where he offers us coffee. Named for an Indian god of earthquakes, the Cabrican complex occupies the top of a hill 6,000-foot high. From a center bunker, a web of trenches lead to machine-gun nests and lookout posts.

The lieutenant tells us that ORPA makes clever use of what resources it has. He brings out a plastic-covered map mounted on cardboard and marked with colored circles. The red ones mark where his troops contacted ORPA guerrillas during the first few days of March. Four platoons man the outpost, two of which are always out on five-day patrols. White shows where patrols have been harassed by guerrillas. Green shows where soldiers have found land mines. Blue indicates where the guerrillas have contacted citizens asking for food and water. And one yellow circle marks Campamento Madre, the main ORPA camp Col. Quilo spoke of, found on 25 February. It is only 8 clicks from Cabrican as the crow flies.

"The camp was destroyed and scattered, but they reorganize very fast," notes Maj. Wolf.

ORPA personnel have M16s, RPGs, M79 grenade launchers and Ruger Mini-

14s, Lt. Pena tells us. They wear solid OD uniforms, sometimes cammies, and even the blue uniforms of police. But their trademark is the diabolical use of anti-personnel mines.

Major Wolf summarizes "They are improving land-mine warfare to an art."

On 3 March, the same day as the RPG attack on the convoy, a mine exploded in the faces of a medic, a radio operator and a captain. The three had knelt down when one of them laid down his rifle, triggering the mine. The shrapnel, which would have normally hit their legs, caught them in the face,



Guat trooper with Galil on patrol. Cloth magazine cover prevents noise in bush — and looks salty.

one piece entering the captain's eye.

"The rifle deflected some of the force," Pena recalls, "or they would have been hurt much worse."

According to the army, ORPA is the only terrorist group to employ tactical mines. *Defensa de la montana* is their name for a ring of mines they place around their camps. While they usually take their mines with them, they often leave them behind for the soldiers who follow.

"They are very sophisticated," notes the lieutenant. "They have trained *explosivistas*."

Nicomedes, a former guerrilla who spent six years with ORPA, was an explosives expert before he asked the army for amnesty. He explains that the mustard-colored fiberglass claymores used by ORPA are filled with TNT. Nails, heavy staples and iron scraps are imbedded in the plastic as shrapnel.

"We made them in camp," he recalls. "Then we put them on ridges where we knew the soldiers would walk."

The explosive in landmines is Tobex, an ammonium nitrate-based fertilizer that is brought in from Mexico. Their trigger mechanism is particularly macabre: hypodermic syringes rigged with electrical contacts, imbedded vertically on either side of a footpath, the wire between them thin covered with dirt or leaves. When this trip wire is triggered, the mine blasts most of the improvised shrapnel out at about a foot above ground level, which doesn't kill the soldier, but maims both his legs and his morale.

Nicomedes was on one ambush by combined ORPA and FAR forces against the infantry. The guerrillas carried a MAG, M16s, and M79s, "with about 150 rounds for each man." The army lost two lieutenants.

But mines provide a silent specter of terror even after guerrilla troops have left an area. They are placed on the ridges between

gullies, often the only possible route for foot patrols.

"They have a lot of experience with us," smiles Col. Quilo. "They know how we move, our tactics."

In 1989, according to Quilo, ORPA has two main fronts: *Frente Javier Tambriz* in the mountains of the Central Highlands, and *Frente Luis Izmata* in San Marcos Department, on the Pacific Coast. Two commanders, Pablo and Herman, apparently lead the central highlands group.

"Pablo gives the orders and controls the camp," explains Nicomedes. "Captain Hernan, he's the military leader. When there's a military operation, he gives the orders and then rehearses them."

Pablo is a tall ladino, about 40 with glasses and a moustache, according to Maria (not her real name), a 19-year-old woman who claims she was abducted from a bus stop and taken to the guerrilla camp for three months.

"He's serious," she recalls. "He likes to read books."

According to Guatemalan army officials, the guerrillas maintain close contact with Cuba, from which they learn some of their terrorist methodology. "They are trained in basic and advanced courses of terrorist techniques," notes Col. Quilo.

Nicomedes outlines how his group was taught to provide antiaircraft support. "We took a 7.62 FAL — M16s and Galils are no

good — or a Browning .30, MAG, or M60 machine gun, and lined up on a hill," he explains. "We aimed all of the bullets at the front of the chopper, shooting all at once."

To ward off attacks, Cabrican makes use of tried-and-true methods of defense: pits, sharpened stakes around the perimeter, claymores, concertina wire, a maze of trenches and foxholes, and machine-gun nests. The camp sustained a direct attack the month before we arrived.

"When they come to us, it's a piece of cake," smiled Lt. Pena. "When they are attacking, all that is in our minds is 'kill the bastards.' It is when we look for them in the mountains that we are at the disadvantage."

ORPA MASSACRE

Near the tiny village of El Aguacate — just 5 miles from a major military base, 6 miles from the Pan American highway, and 12 miles from the popular tourist town of Antigua — guerrillas massacred 22 men, according to three survivors. ORPA (Revolutionary Organization of People in Arms) is the group working in the area.

The leftist press initially tried to plant the impression that *army* troops had committed the crime. It might have worked if there had been no survivors, or if the survivors hadn't been so thoroughly adamant that the massacre was the work of guerrillas. But one of the three survivors, Estaban Arenales, said that he had seen guerrillas patrolling the area before, and that he was familiar with their appearance.

The way that Arenales tells it, on Tuesday, 22 November 1988, Carlos Humberto Guerra Callejas left for his fields outside the village and failed to return. He had a history of seizures, and his family was afraid he had become disoriented and gotten lost. On Thursday, about 25 men set out to look for him. Ranging in age from 19 to 63, they were almost all related, seven of them brothers. They took no guns, only machetes to use against the weeds and snakes.

"We spread into two groups," recalls Arenales.

As they walked through the woods his group was captured and made to join the others who were also being held. All he recalls seeing of his captors is an arm clad in a black sweater with a gray shirt. He cannot recall seeing anyone's face.

The 25 men were forced to walk in a column until they arrived at a ravine. They were ordered to lay face down on the ground. Arenales was at the rear of the group, and when he heard what he thought

was the metallic click of a safety, he made a last-ditch effort to escape. He and six others jumped down the ravine and ran away. He ran with two other men toward the truck of their pastor, who also had been part of the search party. The other four who escaped apparently were recaptured by the guerrillas.

At the truck, the men couldn't decide what to do. They were afraid to do nothing, and afraid of revenge from the guerrillas if they reported them. They waited until Friday to go to the army, hoping that by some miracle the others would return safe.

That proved to be a false hope. On Saturday, their bodies were found in five shallow graves. Their hands had been tied behind their backs, and they had been strangled. Some were naked. Because of the swollen grotesqueness of the bodies, there were initial reports that they had been tortured.

The army decided at that point to build a heliport to handle the job of recovering the bodies, and transporting the officials who would want firsthand knowledge of the massacre. By the time the LZ was ready on Sunday morning, a pulsing mass of Guatemalan and Mexican reporters were on the scene along with army personnel, a judge, and the governor of the department. The judge ordered the bodies removed, and 21 corpses were pulled from the grave, making the total 22, along with Carlos Guerra.

Why were they killed? Some outside observers claimed that the army had killed the men and tried to cover it up with a fabrication about the guerrillas. The Reverend Andres Giron, a Roman Catholic priest, told journalists that he found the official explanation that the guerrillas were responsible "very doubtful."

A guerrilla spokesman in Mexico City issued a statement stating it was "totally

false" that they had committed the El Aguacate massacre.

But Carlos Guerra, for whom the 21 were searching, had been the military commissioner in El Aguacate, a civilian position responsible for reporting to the army any signs of guerrilla activity in the area. In the past, guerrillas have made it a point to seek out and kill people who collaborate with the army.

Arenales holds the opinion that the guerrillas were forced to kill Guerra and the others to protect their identity.

"Maybe one of them is from San Andreas Itzapa (a larger village close to El Aguacate)," he said. "We would have recognized him."

One of the widows believes that the guerrillas were afraid of a counterattack if the men were released and went to the army.

Colonel Jose Quilo, commander of the military base where the men eventually went for help, wishes they had come to him earlier. He thinks that they enlisted their pastor first, to plead or bargain with the guerrillas for Guerra's life.

Quilo also believes that if no one had escaped, the incident would have been a perfect one for blaming on the army, one that it could never have lived down completely.

"But why would the survivors come to us for help if they thought we had killed their friends? If they were afraid of us?" Quilo asks.

The survivors speak nervously about the incident. They declare it was the guerrillas who massacred their brothers and friends. The exact reasons and sequence of events will probably never be known. In the meantime, 96 children, the offspring of the deceased, will spend a lifetime wondering who killed their fathers.

When air support is needed, the A-37s or *pilotos* are called. Helicopters are used primarily for supply runs and medical evacuations. While we were at Zone 302, a chopper low on fuel made an emergency landing with six soldiers apparently wounded by ORPA troops in San Marcos Department.

"They know the area, they know where the army is," adds Maj. Wolf. "They play cat and mouse with us."

One guerrilla tactic is the "monkey tail." Guerrillas watch an army patrol move forward, then suddenly make contact, possibly for only a minute or two. Then they melt away into the woods.

"Twenty-five minutes later, the guerrillas attack from the rear," comments Pena.

To foil the tactic, the patrol may dig in and wait for the counterattack.

"I want you to write that down so they know we know," chuckled Maj. Wolf.

"They are professional people," he adds. "They go out of the country for meetings, and they know what is written about them in the international and Guatemalan press."

He is speaking of meetings with the URNG (Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity), an international umbrella group with personnel in Mexico.

"They'll think that we know all their moves against us," Pena adds with a grin.

The army's task of keeping the peace is a hard job, according to Col. Quilo, made even more difficult during the current frenzy leading up to the presidential election next year. While the number of armed insurgents in Guatemala has reportedly dropped to fewer than 1,000, terrorist activity has increased sharply in 1989, as predicted by Minister of Defense Brigadier General Alejandro Gramajo.

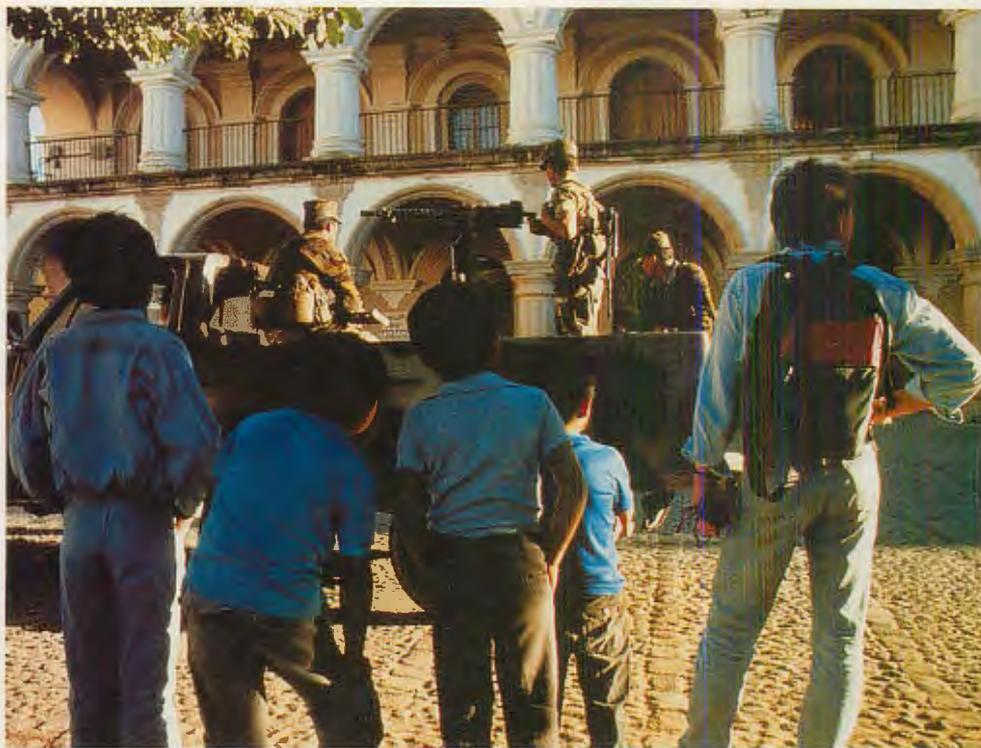
"Our resources allow us only to provide stability," notes Col. Quilo.

Terrorists capture a large chunk of press and the public's imagination when they make an example of the landowners and managers of coffee and cotton plantations. In one case, a landowner was ambushed by insurgents. They pulled him out of his truck, and in front of his wife and a passenger, executed him. In another area, two farms were burned. The point is to leave witnesses to bear the message that it is dangerous to own land, to be rich.

There is evidence, according to the army, that ORPA has been involved in special operations to turn people against the government and landowners. In return, army troops "occasionally provide special operations to the *fincas* [landowners]," explains Quilo.

In March, reports of guerrillas on the volcanoes near Antigua filled that town's central park with soldiers headed out on maneuvers. American and European tourists gaped in alarm at the cammie-clad troops and the M60s mounted in the Jeeps.

"It isn't good for the tourist business," commented one American who has lived in Antigua for 16 years. "It's too reminiscent of when tanks came through here in the



ABOVE: For the first time in years, Guatemalan army troops patrol around Antigua, Guatemala, a popular vacation spot for Americans and Europeans. Here young boys in Antigua watch an army truck, mounting a 7.62x63mm M1919A6 Browning machine gun, drive by in the central park.

early '80s."

In August, five gunmen dragged Christian Democratic Party leader Danilo Barillas Rodriguez from his home and shot him dead. President Vinicio Cerezo called him a "victim of democracy."

During a series of terrorist attacks during the summer, a grenade exploded on a busy street in Guatemala City injuring two people. Strikes paralyzed the country's postal service during the summer, and explosives have occasionally been placed at banks and other businesses.

A knowledgeable source indicates that the presence of the EGP is stronger in the rural villages north of Nebaj than it was earlier in the year.

Colonel Quilo is a realist. "We are playing our small part in the war — an integral counterinsurgency measure. We don't say we can win without changes by landowners and the government. It takes the effort of everyone."

An effort that seems, sometimes, not to come until a state of crisis has developed.

Will Guatemalan steps toward a functioning democracy be enhanced by the presidential elections next year? Will this progress toward democratic government provide opportunities for the poor which can deafen their ears to the strident but empty promises of communism? Colonel Quilo is optimistic. "I think something is going to happen," he concludes.

Guatemala is in a state of flux. Changes are being made for the better, not only on the military front, but toward democratization. We can only hope that the stability provided by the Guatemalan army will provide the time which will allow this fledgling democracy to grow to the point it can both meet the needs of all its people and provide for their defense. ✕



ABOVE: Guatemala City graffiti at left translates, "Don't raise the cost of living." The obligatory "Yankee go home" appears at right.



Screening for guerrillas, soldiers search for weapons 14 kilometers outside of Guatemala City on the Pan American Highway on the way to Chimaltenango.

SOF HOMECOMING



BELOW: Spanish navy sailors raise the pennants for the final time in preparation for entering New Orleans harbor.



USS CABOT COMES HOME

New Orleans Scores Carrier Coup

Text & Photos by Tom Slizewski

An aircraft carrier is a noble thing. It lacks almost everything that seems to denote nobility, yet deep nobility is there.

A carrier has no poise. It has no grace. It is top-heavy and lopsided. It has the lines of a well-fed cow.

It doesn't cut through the water like a cruiser, knifing romantically along. It doesn't dance and cavort like a destroyer. It just plows. You feel it should be carrying a hod, rather than wearing a red sash.

Yet a carrier is a ferocious thing, and out of its heritage of action has grown its nobility. I believe that today every Navy in the world has as its No. 1 priority the destruction of enemy carriers. That's a precarious honor, but it's a proud one.

ERNIE Pyle wrote these words shortly after landing aboard the flattop USS Cabot (CVL-28 — Carrier Vessel Light on hull 28) in February of 1945. While they still ring true today, these words were penned by America's foremost war correspondent after first seeing the long, straight, metal monstrosity that is an aircraft carrier.

Though dwarfed by current nuclear powered carriers and even World War II-era CVs, the USS Cabot is still a breathtaking sight to behold — some 25,000 tons of fast-moving, quick-striking, ocean-going steel. Approaching it from the air it looks like 574 feet of rapacious floating interstate. And well it should, as this stretch of road can use its complement of aircraft to reach

out and kill something hundreds of miles away or hundreds of feet underwater. This range coupled with its speed makes the carrier one of the deadliest weapons in a navy's arsenal.

A carrier is essentially a mobile, floating airfield. And with nearly three-fourths of the globe covered by water, there are few targets carrier-based planes cannot strike.

Carriers came into their own during World War II, particularly after a task force comprising six Japanese carriers launched the planes that bombed Pearl Harbor. But even before the surprise attack on Pearl, the British were employing their CVs to good effect, knocking out a substantial portion of the Italian fleet with a raid on Taranto, and

BELOW: Scene on the bridge as Cabot/Dedalo carefully steams up the Mississippi River to its final destination, New Orleans harbor.





ABOVE: This gun tub and the one to its front were destroyed by a Japanese kamikaze strike. A second kamikaze struck the *Cabot's* flight deck inflicting serious damage and loss of life.

INSET: Spanish naval honor guard with CETME assault rifles during transfer ceremonies.

taking action against ships at sea when they could be found. The pride of the German *Kriegsmarine*, the battleship *Bismarck*, was doomed after being hit by a torpedo-carrying carrier plane.

I arrived aboard the *Cabot* via UH-1N Huey from Marine Aircraft Group 46, Detachment B. Due to a hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico our previously arranged Coast Guard choppers didn't fly. The Marines went anyway. As we approached from the air I could see the *Cabot* flying the colors of Spain. She was currently a Spanish ship and would remain so for the next two days. As

the Hueys circled I could read the name *Dedalo* painted on its stern but it seemed an odd fit. What's in a name? I thought. This unquestionably was still the USS *Cabot*.

Soon I found myself clambering insect-like through the interior of this proud American, temporarily Spanish, carrier as it cautiously steamed up the Mississippi River. I quickly learned that life aboard a CV is much like living in a metal ant farm, without the windows. Tiny (I'm 6'3") walks, ladders and passageways catacomb the interior. You're always crouching everywhere you walk and it's so hot you can't sleep, air-conditioning being a vague concept reserved for office buildings and expensive automobiles. Two days in the belly of this beast and I developed a whole new respect for men who make their living on them.

Though a fascinating place to visit, I didn't want to live there. But live there you can, as the ship is being turned into a military museum-cum-motel, complete with individual rooms and restaurant. Though rates

WHERE THE CVLS ARE

Name	Completed	Fate
CVL-22 <i>Independence</i>	1/43	Sunk in weapons trials 30/1/51
CVL-23 <i>Princeton</i>	1/43	Sunk by bomb 24/10/44 in Leyte Gulf
CVL-24 <i>Belleau Wood</i>	3/43	Transferred to France as <i>Bois Belleau</i> 9/53, returned and scrapped 1962
CVL-25 <i>Cowpens</i>	5/43	scrapped 1962
CVL-26 <i>Monterey</i>	6/43	scrapped 1970
CVL-27 <i>Langley</i>	8/43	transferred to France as <i>Lafayette</i> 6/51, returned and scrapped 1964
CVL-28 <i>Cabot</i>	7/43	transferred to Spain 8/67, given to city of New Orleans and turned into museum 1989
CVL-29 <i>Bataan</i>	11/43	scrapped 1959
CVL-30 <i>San Jacinto</i>	12/43	stricken 1970



TOP: Six of the original crew members who served aboard the *Cabot* during World War II linked up with her for the final voyage.

ABOVE: One of hundreds of tiny passageways that catacomb the interior of the ship.

haven't been set, a night aboard this warship shouldn't set you back much, as the owners are a non-profit group.

The *Cabot* was one of nine CVLs, fast carriers able to steam at over 31 knots, built immediately after Pearl Harbor to take the war to the Japanese. Though smaller and capable of carrying only 33 operational aircraft (compared to nearly 100 on the bigger CVs), the *Cabot's* service record is exceptional.

Originally laid down as the light cruiser (CL-79) *Wilmington* but launched in April 1943 as a fast carrier, the USS *Cabot* spent more time on a combat footing than any other carrier save the USS *Enterprise*. During her 16 months of service in the Pacific

Theater of Operations (PTO), she earned nine battle stars, was responsible for the destruction of 356 enemy planes and sank 30 ships, including putting three torpedoes into the Japanese super battleship *Yamato*.

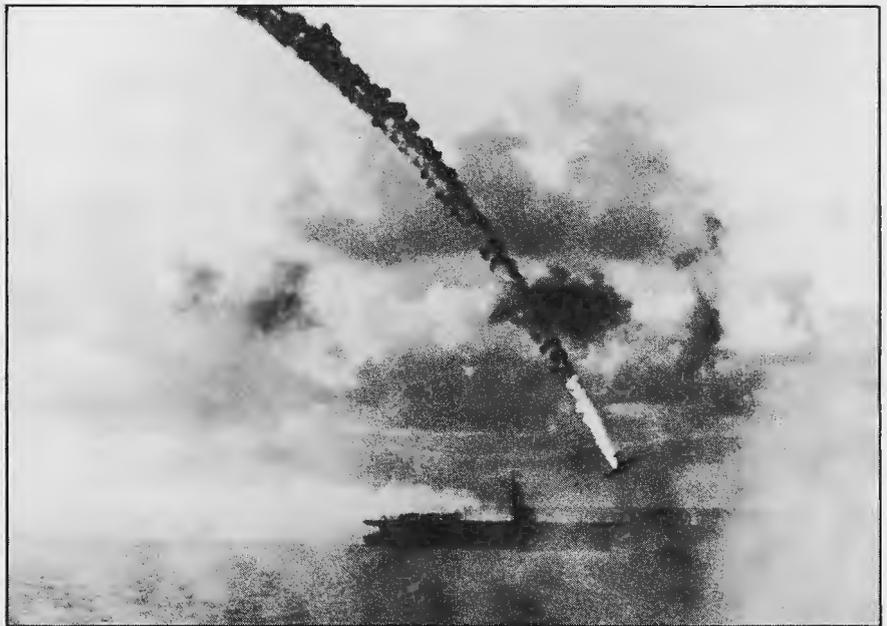
She suffered two kamikaze strikes, two bomb hits and weathered five typhoons, including one that nearly capsized her in the Philippine Sea, during her 133,880 miles of combat duty. Small wonder her crew nicknamed her "The Iron Lady."

The Iron Lady now makes her home permanently in New Orleans harbor and will be available for viewing early in 1990. She's the only CVL still intact (see sidebar) and one of three carriers permanently docked and turned into military museums (the other two are the USS *Intrepid* in New York, and the USS *Yorktown* in Charleston).

Events that brought the *Cabot* home were set into motion when a group of New Orleansians interested in American military history formed the non-profit *Cabot/Dedalo* Foundation and proceeded to talk the Spanish government into giving them — free — the flagship of the Royal Spanish Navy, the helicopter carrier *Dedalo* (R-01). *Dedalo* is Spanish for Daedalus, a character in Greek mythology who along with his son Icarus were the first humans to fly. Attaching feathers to their arms with wax, they flew for a while, the myth goes, until Icarus failed to heed his father and flew too close to the sun, which melted the wax holding on his feathers. Predictably Icarus then pioneered the crash landing. When the United States transferred the *Cabot* to Spain in July 1967 they re-christened her *Dedalo*, presumably because it was their first carrier and in a way they too were learning to fly.

C. Denver Mullican, more than any other individual, is responsible for bringing the ship to New Orleans. As a graduate student in marketing at Central Michigan University, he wrote his Master's thesis on the economic impact of military museums on cities such as Mobile, New York and Baltimore. Mullican followed this up by writing a letter to the editor of the New Orleans newspaper, *The Times-Picayune*, suggesting the city also bring a warship to attract tourists. "I got a B from the reviewer of my thesis and was told the premise was totally unrealistic and unworkable. Besides, no country in the world would give up an aircraft carrier," he told me. In 1989 he was on deck as the *Cabot* rounded the final bend in the Mississippi River before docking at New Orleans harbor. His expression was one of extreme satisfaction. The pessimistic professor was not-so-curiously absent; this didn't present a major problem as Mullican called him on his mobile phone. The subsequent conversation was brief.

Though the ship was a gift from the Spanish government, several million dollars had to be raised to move her from Rota, Spain, to New Orleans and to refurbish her once she was there. Donations from local citizens trickled in and for a while it looked like sufficient funds couldn't be raised. But then American Legion Post 377, Kenner,



ABOVE: Twin-engine kamikaze shot down in flames by antiaircraft fire from USS *Cabot*. Most suicide planes were destroyed in the air and crashed harmlessly into the ocean, but those that managed to hit ships did extensive damage.

BELOW: USS *Cabot* barely missed by Japanese kamikaze suicide plane. Photo shot from deck of USS *Essex* on 6 April 1945. Photos: courtesy U.S. Naval Institute



Louisiana, rode to the rescue with their fund raising efforts and contributed enough "Bingo" money to raise the over half million dollars required just for fuel. The post will henceforth be based on the carrier.

As the voyage from Spain to the United States would be the *Cabot's* last, former crew members were invited to join the ship in Puerto Rico for the final stretch home. Lemuel Bacon, Raymond Foss, Robert Hanson, Francis Hayde, Steig Johnson, Thomas O'Grady and Howard Skidmore took them up on their offer and flew out to meet the ship.

A complement of some 350 Royal Spanish Navy sailors, one quarter of her normal crew, also made the trip to return the *Cabot*.

Spain has replaced the ship with a modern home-built helicopter carrier the *Principe de Asturias* which was completed in July 1986 and is the new flagship.

"The people of Spain feel very close to the people of New Orleans. We are pleased to give (them) the pride of our fleet as another symbol of our friendship," said Lieutenant Commander Manuel Romero, Assistant Naval Attache stationed in Washington D.C.

It proves that even if you've gained a little weight, say a couple tons, and spent the last 22 years as a roost for VTOL warplanes and ASW helicopters of a foreign power, you can come home again.

Cabot, we're mighty glad to have you back. ✕



SOF SOUTHERN ASIA

PROFESSIONALS IN PARADISE

Text & Photos by Tom Marks



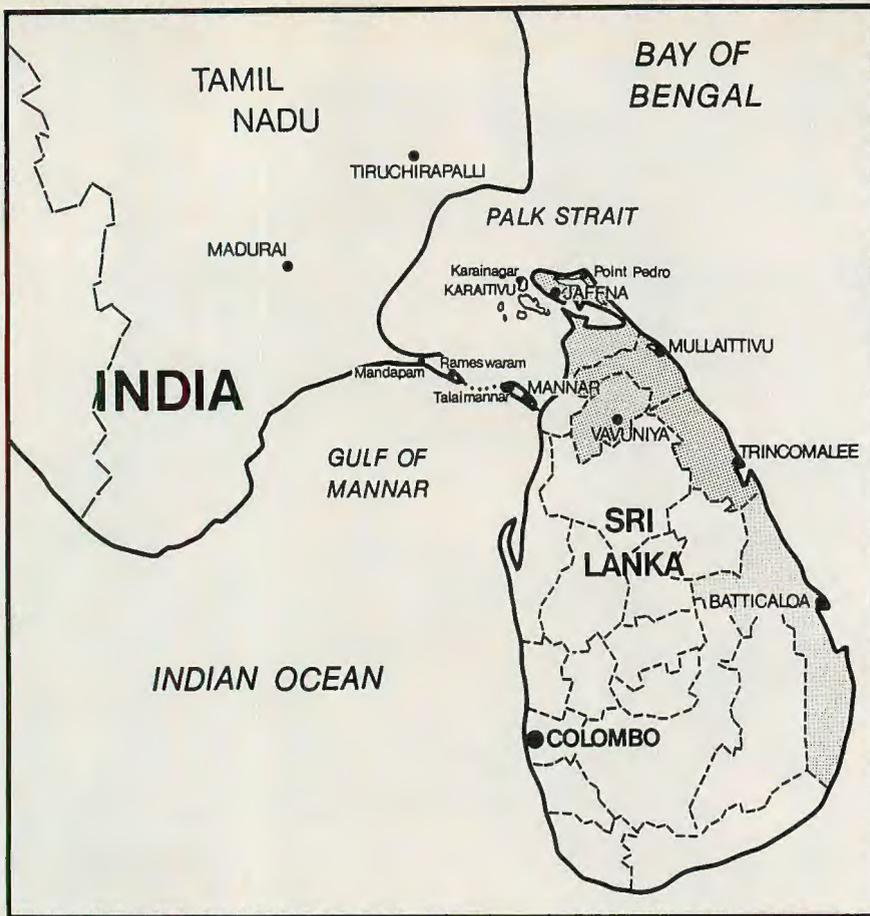
Sri Lanka's Army Gears Up for "Tiger" Hunt

IT was that magic hour just before dusk. That hour when birds cease their cries, and the whole world grows still. That hour when the sun's intense rays suddenly soften and cause all colors to take on deep, rich hues. Even rivulets of sweat stopped their cascade down dusty faces. The most hesitant footstep echoed as a shot amid the stillness. Thus we paused, several members of my escort going down on one knee, their Chinese AKs — the T-56 — at the ready.

Before us stretched the magic that is Sri Lanka. An expanse of green rice stalks rippled in the breeze, secure between two rows of low, rocky hills. A stone causeway, perpendicular to our line of march, intersected

GOOD MARKS

Tom Marks is a frequent contributor to *Soldier of Fortune*, filing recent stories from the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, *India*, and this, his fourth report from Sri Lanka (see "Counterinsurgency in Sri Lanka," February '87, "Sri Lankan Minefield," March '88, and "Sri Lanka's Special Force," July '88). Marks is a West Point graduate and former infantry officer who lives and works in Hawaii when he is not on assignment.



Provinces and districts of Sri Lanka.

this gently swaying carpet. Moving across it, to our left, was a small procession of villagers returning home, leading an elephant.

Behind them another small group, four men, squatted on their haunches and watched a second elephant contentedly chew branches being spread about him by his handler.

Ahead of the procession on the causeway, directly in their line of march, lay a Buddhist temple. There a lone monk stood amid sails of saffron, the robes of the priestly inhabitants set out to dry. As they passed, the villagers and the monk exchanged greetings, then went about their separate tasks.

We, too, moved on, offering words to the second group and warily eyeing the elephant. The men chuckled at our unease. Then we were gone, intruders in a paradise where time, to our minds, had stood still even as the modern world had raced into turmoil. Our weapons and equipment were proof enough of that.

War in Paradise

Yet we were not the only intruders in this magical world. For two decades the Marxist guerrillas of the *Janata Vimukthi Peramuna* (JVP or People's Liberation Front) have sought to overthrow the democratic government of Sri Lanka. In 1971 they staged an island-wide uprising which collapsed in bloody encounters that left some 12,000 dead. The JVP retreated to its hideouts,

licked its wounds, and plotted. Now it is back — with a vengeance.

Deaths related to the insurgency presently number between 700 and 1,000 per month, depending upon whose figures are accepted, a staggering rate for a country of just 16 million inhabitants. (The much larger Philippine insurgency, for instance, claims a reported 300 casualties per month.) Normal life is at a virtual standstill in many areas, and the economy is faltering. Troops line the streets of Colombo, the capital. Counterinsurgency operations daily take in hundreds of suspects in rural areas. Despite its promises of renewal, the newly elected government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa has been unable to break loose from the rigidity and corruption which paralyzed the previous administration of Junius R. Jayewardene. Further, there are few indications that it will. For now, signs point to even greater violence ahead.

Two years after they entered the country with a Cyprus-style solution allegedly to safeguard Sri Lanka's three million Tamils, Indian troops continued to occupy the north and east (see "Sri Lankan Minefield," March '88). So far their efforts to establish a Tamil puppet state have cost them more than 1,000 KIA in battles with their erstwhile allies, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — LTTE, the separatist group once the primary foe of the Sri Lankan forces. Despite Indian efforts, LTTE continues to battle on, and the Indians are viewed as a hostile occupation force by many of the people they came to protect. Hence, they

have agreed to depart by the end of 1989.

Of more immediate concern to the soldiers I am with, the Indian presence has inflamed the nationalist passions of the Sinhalese majority in the south. All but finished, the JVP was able to gain a new lease on life by portraying itself as an anti-foreign standard bearer. As anti-Indian passions rose to the boiling point, the JVP rushed to channel the dissent into anti-government action, using longstanding socio-economic-political grievances for further recruiting.

Government response has become a serious threat, out of proportion to its actual power and mass base. Put simply, Colombo is unable to comprehend the way in which the JVP has used the anti-Indian issue as a means to tap the local issues of landlessness, poverty, unemployment, lack of educational opportunities, and so forth. Instead, it has called upon the security forces to beat back the revolt. This they can no doubt do for the time being — but not indefinitely.

Strategic issues, of course, are far from our minds as we keep a keen eye out for guerrillas, so we'll leave them for a future article. Our immediate concern is being shot.

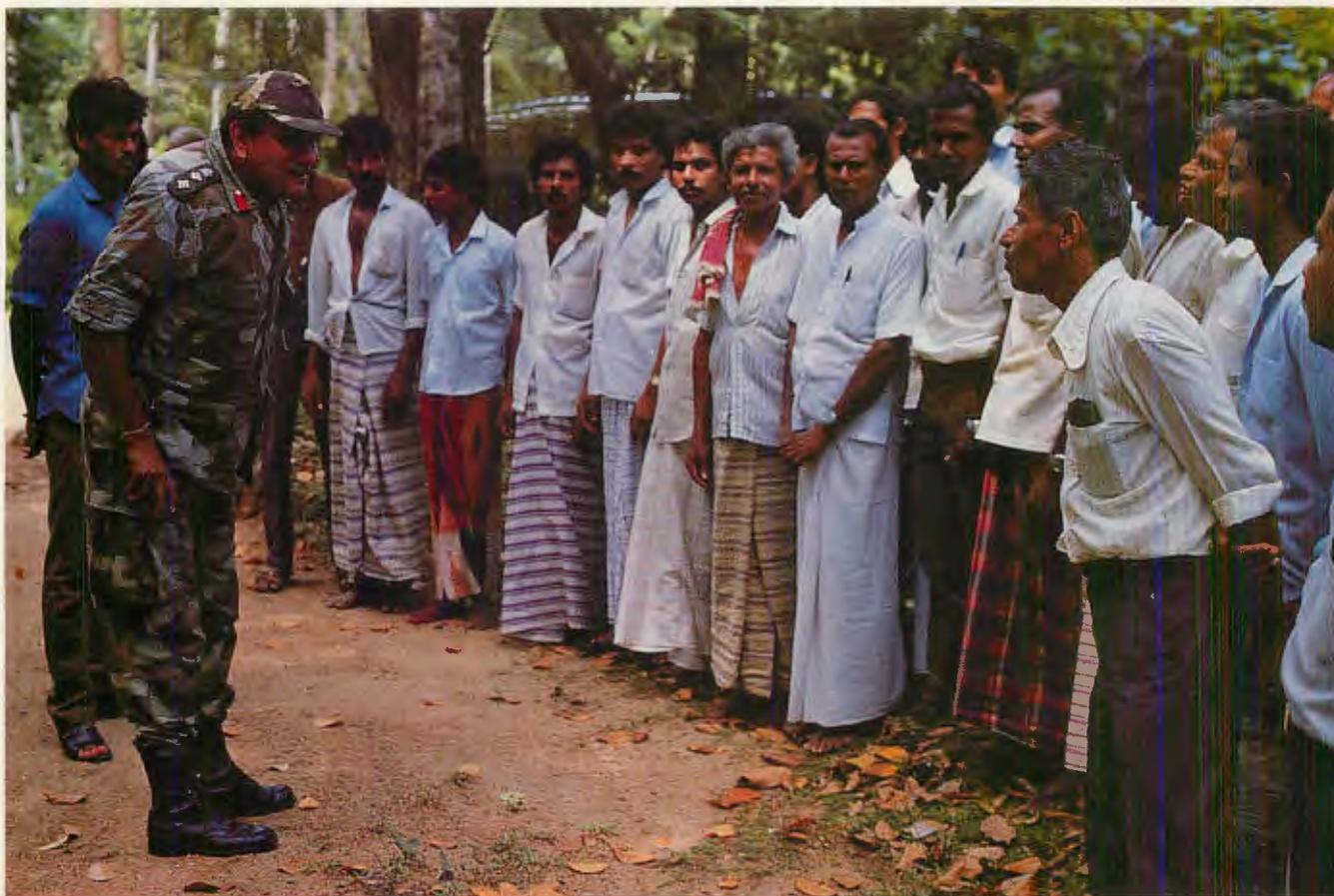
Even this, though, is a remote possibility at the moment. The JVP rarely engages the military. Instead, it relies almost exclusively upon terror and mines. It is waging a holding action in the rural areas — where most of the military is deployed — while it goes after the jugular, the nation's economy.

To hold the countryside, the JVP has systematically assassinated the natural leaders of society — the doctors, teachers, lawyers, village headmen . . . all those who provide the glue which gives the body of rural existence its spine. Deprived of these individuals, the masses are easily controlled through selective terror.

To go after the economy, the JVP has infiltrated labor organizations, factories, and businesses in Colombo, for that is where production is concentrated. Industry is at a virtual standstill, functioning only intermittently. The loss of tax revenues has hit hard a government which, after four straight years of budget deficits, was already experiencing cash flow problems.

While lack of government strategy for dealing with the JVP has been the insurgents' greatest asset in pulling off this two-pronged approach, the insurgents are leaving nothing to chance. They are doing all they can to ensure that the security forces do not interfere with them. Again, terror is their principal weapon. Troops on leave and their families are regularly murdered; the police find themselves in an even more exposed position, because they live in the very areas being contested. Unable to take leave, troops become demoralized; unable to move their families out of operational zones, policemen do not vigorously execute their security duties.

Thus far the JVP has had most success in the capital. There, the military has not been



given a free rein to attack the problem. Elsewhere, in the hinterland, the insurgents have proved adept at tapping local grievances but have found themselves stymied by effective action led by the army.

Starting from Scratch

As in any rebellion, it is the army which is the ultimate line of defense. In the Sri Lankan case, this thin line has been created virtually from scratch. Commencing with the aftermath of July 1983, when nationwide anti-Tamil rioting rocked the island and signalled the onset of general violence, the military buildup has seen the army grow from a mere four infantry battalions to 24 battalions that are nearly twice the size of their predecessors. They have grown not only numerically, but in effectiveness and equipment as well. "The forces," as they are called, are a far cry from the ill-prepared, under-equipped body which existed in 1983.

Essential to this expansion process has been use of the regimental system. Long since abandoned by the Americans — though it continues to function in some respects — the concept is simplicity itself. A regimental center holds the lineage, honors, and records of the regiment; it trains new recruits who are then placed in component battalions. As greater needs arise, the number of battalions is increased; as circumstances dictate, they may be likewise demobilized. Always, however, *the unit* continues to exist.

Battalions take their identity from that unit, being numbered accordingly. In Sri Lanka, after some consolidations and



TOP: The most disruptive aspect of cordon and search operations is the screening. Every male is detained briefly while his identity is checked against village registers. Here Col. Perera explains the procedure to villagers.

ABOVE: Troops move into position for screening operation. Most carry variations of the T-56 (Chinese AK), wear U.S. or Israeli helmets, Chinese web gear.

shakedown runs, there are presently five regiments: Gajaba, Gemunu Watch, Vijayabahu Infantry (all three named after great kings), Sri Lanka Light Infantry (which traces its ancestry to the colonial Ceylon Light Infantry), and Singha ("Lion"). Their component battalions, five each, are numbered one through five. Hence, to use the Gajaba Regiment (GR) as an illustration, there exist 1 GR, 2 GR and so forth.

My escort is from 5(V) SLLI — the 5th Battalion (Volunteers) of the Sri Lanka Light Infantry. The "Volunteers" designation means that a unit is comprised of reservists. Given that most of these units have

been mobilized throughout a majority of the current conflict, the distinction between regular and reserve forces has little meaning. Further, regular or reserve, virtually the entire Sri Lankan army has been recruited since 1983 and has been fighting continuously since that date.

Once assigned to a battalion, enlisted and NCO ranks normally serve there throughout a career. Officers move between battalions yet remain within the regiment. Periods of extra-regimental assignment (called "ERA") ensure career proficiency, but always officers return to their regiment and, normally, their battalion. Thus officers know intimately the men they command — and vice-versa. Officers also know each others' capabilities well.

Given its minuscule beginnings, this is particularly true of the cream of the Sri Lankan officer corps, those who now occupy the highest ranks. Initially, while basic and advance courses were being created (the country had previously met its limited needs through foreign training, normally in India) the answer to officer shortages was to increase the span of control. Each infantry battalion was given seven companies: five line, a headquarters, and a support weapons. This 1,200-man body allowed the most experienced officers to maneuver their fledgling charges.

It was a difficult unit to control, though, given the dispersed deployment requirements of guerrilla war. As soon as adequate numbers of junior officers became available to allow for promotions of more senior personnel, the size was cut back by one line



TOP: Funeral procession of the murdered trooper. Hundreds of local residents turned out to bury him, despite threats from the JVP.

ABOVE: Beret of Sri Lankan trooper, assassinated by communist JVP rebels while he was home on leave, is mixed with those of honor guard during portion of burial ceremony.

company, bringing strength down to about 900. Further pruning of the structure will progress as officer resources allow.

For the moment the rapid expansion of units and consequent elevation of experienced personnel has meant rapid promotions for many. This has resulted in senior ranks, both officer and NCO, which are generally young, aggressive, and flexible. Many present brigadiers, for example, were but lieutenant colonels just a few years ago.

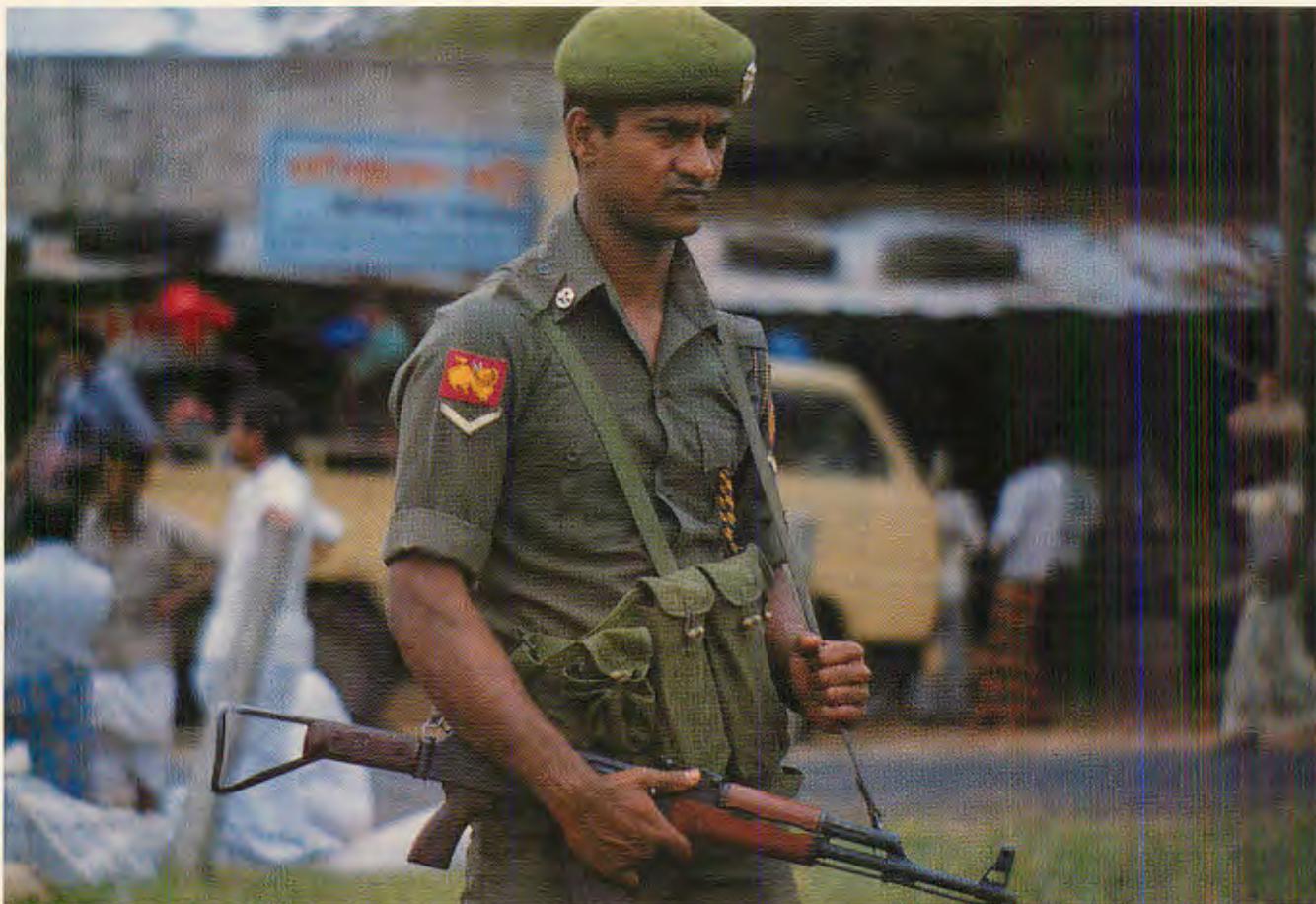
Junior officers and NCOs function within a structure which would be familiar to servicemen worldwide. Rifle companies consist of four line platoons, each composed of three sections (squads) of 10 men each. Following British procedure, sections are



TOP: Two reasons the Sri Lankan army has continued to function as well as it has: on left is Brig. Viji Wimalaratne (concurrently Army G-3 and Gajaba regimental commander), and on right is Col. Janaka Perera, one of the premier brigade commanders. In areas under their command these two outstanding soldiers have decimated the JVP infrastructure.

ABOVE: In charge of providing for troops on the ground during the operation was Lt. Col. Gamini Gunasekera, facing camera. Here he reviews with local police where he wants men placed in the cordon.

commanded by corporals. Each normally has a light machine gun (LMG) and a gre-



nade launcher; the remaining troops carry automatic rifles.

All battalions save two are armed with the Chinese-manufactured T-56 (the familiar AK produced in three models) and its variant, the T-81, which can launch rifle grenades; their LMG is the standard Chinese export version of the RPD. The two non-standard battalions carry the FNC (Fabrique Nationale Carbine) manufactured in Belgium, together with the FN Minimi SAW (squad automatic weapon). Also present, in addition to the T-81, are large numbers of H&K Granatpistolen (grenade launchers), which are much like the U.S. M79, and smaller numbers of Armscor 40mm six-shot grenade launchers. These are augmented by RPG-7 rocket launchers and 60mm mortars in each platoon headquarters. Battalion support weapons are predicated upon the mission, and upon availability. Typical would be a heavy machine-gun section with two .50 Brownsings, a mortar section with 10 81mm mortars, and an anti-tank section with four 106mm recoilless rifles.

To teach the employment of these weapons, both individually and in coordinated units, required the creation of a schooling infrastructure which six years ago did not exist. Courses ranging from Junior Leadership (for NCOs) to Combat in Built-up Areas had to be designed and implemented. Although the demands were staggering, they were met surprisingly quickly and professionally.

It took longer to evolve a tactical com-

mand structure. Only in the past few years has the army placed its battalions under permanent, numbered brigades — though these remain continually flexible in composition — and its brigades under divisions. In theory, there is a brigade for each of Sri Lanka's nine provinces. These are grouped into three division headquarters, only two of which are operational, the third being designated for the area presently under Indian occupation.

When a battalion is assigned to a brigade it, of course, responds to the orders of the latter's commander. The regimental commander handles recruit training and personnel assignments (officer assignments are formally done by army headquarters but with the advice of the regimental commander). The regimental commander also maintains battalion equipment stores. Supplies are ordered through cantonments (since the war is internal, units revolve around more-or-less permanent installations). Ammunition is drawn directly from army headquarters, though there are plans to decentralize this authority to the divisions. Such are the demands for manpower that the regimental output is further augmented by three national training centers. In time it is hoped to standardize procedures, possibly sending all personnel through national training, then assigning them to their regimental centers for unit training and indoctrination. For the moment the pressing requirements of continual combat have led to ad hoc solutions.

Organization for Combat

Superimposed upon the tactical organiza-

Urban ops also occupy units, for like many developing countries, Sri Lanka, though classified as predominantly "rural," actually has large concentrations of its population in town and urban centers. Trooper here, carrying T-56-2 (side folding stock) Chinese-made AK, assists in general security during search.

tion of the army is another ad hoc solution, the counterinsurgency structure. Administratively, Sri Lanka's provinces are already divided into districts, 22 in all (see map), each headed by a government agent (GA) who sees to it that government services and programs are carried out. These GAs are now paired with a coordinating officer whose responsibility it is to handle the security effort for the district. Often, to simplify the chain of command, the coordinating officer will be the commander of the battalion operating in that district. The brigade commanders, in turn, act as chief coordinating officers for their provinces and report to area commanders. Areas 1 and 2 divide the Sinhalese heartland into southern and northern sectors, respectively; Area 3 is the Tamil-populated area under Indian occupation.

Used historically with considerable effect by the British and French, this system has the advantage of setting in place security personnel whose mission is to win back their areas. They may be assigned assets, military and civil, as circumstances dictate. Coordinating officers control all security forces deployed in their districts; they are to work closely with the

GAs to develop a plan for the protection of normal civilian administrative and area development functions.

For this work they are aided by a permanent staff whose job it is to know intimately the area. In particular, intelligence personnel remain at the "Coord" headquarters and guide the employment of operational personnel.

Previously, this framework culminated in a Joint Operations Center (JOC), headed by the country's only four-star general, Cyril Ranatunga. But the JOC never really hit its stride as a coordinating body. Instead, manned by senior serving officers, it usurped actual command functions to such an extent that it *became* the military. The service headquarters, in particular the army, were reduced to little more than administrative centers. The current system has the JOC functioning as a weak supreme command, with the service chiefs rotating as its head at three-month intervals. This clumsy arrangement is sure to fall by the wayside, too, as operational requirements become more pressing.

While the JOC did not function as intended, General Ranatunga was far more successful in building esprit and the unity essential for the conduct of operations. This took considerable doing.

When Sri Lanka's minimal forces were first posted to the Tamil north, prior to July 1983, they were small, lightly armed and equipped, and minimally trained. Units understood little about the complexities of guerrilla war in an island the size of Ireland.



TOP: Troops place barricades to seal off area.

ABOVE: Key difference between such operations conducted by indigenous forces and outside assistance (e.g. Americans in Vietnam) is the ability of the security forces to talk with people, which automatically defuses many potentially troublesome situations.

The troops kept themselves occupied by running in convoy up and down the main roads, the soldiers amusing themselves by using long poles to knock civilians off their bicycles. It was all great sport; and while the local populace protested vigorously against

the unseemly conduct of the "occupying army" — the troops were virtually all Sinhalese — casualties normally were few on both sides.

Still, there were excesses, especially in the first half of 1983 as tension mounted and the guerrillas became more active. Just before the July 1983 explosion, the government was forced to move vigorously to punish these abuses. In the most serious incident, members of the 1st Battalion Rajarata Rifles were disciplined after taking retaliatory actions against civilians. To protest these measures, nearly 100 other soldiers went on strike and then deserted. The entire battalion was consequently disbanded; the deserters, once rounded up, were cashiered out of the service, as were some members of the chain of command. The remaining unit men were combined with another understrength regular battalion (1st Battalion Wijayaba Regiment) to form the first unit of an entirely new regiment, the Gajaba. This left just four infantry battalions on the eve of what was to quickly become a war.

There followed years of hard fighting and considerable turmoil (see "Counterinsurgency in Sri Lanka," February '87). Yet gradually the organization came to grips with the situation. In the absence of an overall government plan for dealing with the situation in the Tamil area, army operations were proceeding in a vacuum. Still, this shortcoming had little effect on the day-to-day growth of the military as a corporate body, because its first priority was simply to win back the large areas of the country

Troops move warily through temple complex in rural area. JVP terrorists frequently assume the flowing, saffron robes of a monk, which can readily hide an AK.



which had fallen under insurgent sway.

Security must predicate the political action which will address structural grievances. Initially, until it developed as a military force, the army was incapable of providing this security. Once it had expanded and regrouped, so to speak, it proved itself more than a match for the guerrillas, who, it should be added, were well-armed and highly motivated.

Virtually all officers agree that the turning point, at least militarily, came with the "Liberation I" offensive launched in May 1987. Using a two-brigade operation (each brigade with two battalions), the forces succeeded in seizing half of the only remaining guerrilla stronghold, the Jaffna Peninsula. Fighting was intense, but the units functioned well.

It was at this point that the Indians intervened. Initially, Sri Lanka acquiesced to their presence under the provisions of a peace accord whereby India was to disarm the guerrillas. As New Delhi failed to live up to its end of the deal, however, attempting to set up a state tied to New Delhi and largely independent of Colombo, Sri Lankan sentiment turned against it. Indian tardiness in leaving continues to poison relations between the two neighbors.

A War of Tactics

Regardless, these problems have remained on the plane of foreign policy, for the Sri Lankan forces are completely committed in the Sinhalese south. There, they have demonstrated a knowledge of counter-insurgency techniques and theory surprisingly advanced for so young a force.

Paramount is the recognition that there must be a political strategy for dealing with the issues which are allowing the insurgents to gain strength. Ominously, in my most recent two weeks in the field, I could find no officer, from the lowest lieutenant to the highest general, who believed that the nation's leadership had an understanding of what the war was all about.

"These politicians are always making things a shambles," a second lieutenant told me from the base where he commanded a two-platoon force. "They go for short term popularity. In a few years, they can leave office. But the army and the police don't get to leave. We have to deal with the problems they have left behind. What we need is honesty and a plan."

Indeed, it is these two issues — corruption and the lack of a plan — which crop up over and over again.

"It is the children of our battered peasantry who are joining the JVP," analyzes a government agent as his coordinating officer partner nods agreement. "The root cause of these troubles is landlessness."

"We are in a race for the minds of our children," adds the coordinating officer. "I don't believe in body count, but the politicians do. How are we going to resolve this problem? We have been at this for 18-19 years. These people aren't thinking. We need a solution!"

Opines a brigade commander in another

area, "The army can only do so much. It can restore the situation to a point. But if there is no effort to address the socio-economic causes, all this will come back. We have to have some sort of plan to guide us. But I doubt if we'll get it. The politicians have made a real mess of things. We can't expect people who are a part of the problem to recognize it."

One of his battalion commanders noted, "Our corrupt powerholders are the major reason we have this situation. If you take the sympathizers, they're not really JVP. They're just anti-government."

A company commander of the battalion observed, "The mechanisms for hearing people are not very effective. There are real reasons why people are on the road. But there are no solutions being offered."

As on a ship at sea without a compass, each "captain" has made do as best he can. Unlike in Colombo, the situation in the rural areas, though very unsettled, seems under control. This is so only because the coordinating officers and tactical commanders, older and wiser after their experiences in the Tamil areas, are more than capable of planning their own mini-campaigns.

The Achilles heel of their efforts, of course, is that in the absence of coordination and guidance, each commander must constantly re-invent the wheel and deal with problems beyond his control. He can only ameliorate their local impact.

"Look at this map," says a coordinating officer, pointing to the wall. The green areas are small river valleys where the people are clustered. They were driven from their land when the British took it over for the estates [tea and rubber in this particular area]. Now, with population growth, there are too many people for the land. And where can the people go? See these villages here? They can't even be reached by road. It takes five hours to get to the nearest school. So the children grow up without an education and no hope for meaningful employment. So they're stuck in their poverty. But all around they see what was once their land, and they see the people living on it getting rich. And those people are Indians [most laborers on the tea estates are Indian Tamils brought over by the British when the Sinhalese peasantry proved to be a less-than-docile work force]. Now the Indian laborers are followed by Indian troops. Then along comes someone who tells them he'll set all this right, that he'll get rid of the government that sold out the country and made everyone poor. Is it any wonder people join the JVP? I do what I can, but..."

So daily the commanders send their troops out on operations, primarily cordon and searches, as well as night ambushes, generated by intelligence leads. Units appear to have little trouble getting information once they establish their presence in an area. One commander with whom I stayed was deluged by a hundred letters a day, 80-90 percent of which he estimated contained accurate information.

Why such a response? Paradoxically, the

army's presence eliminates the worst abuses of the system. It does this by enforcing a standard of conduct the system itself is unwilling to provide.

Explains a brigade commander: "When I come to an area, I immediately explain to them that I have come to serve the people. But, I add, we in a democratic society have one way of doing things — that is to elect representatives who pass laws. *Anyone* who violates the law in my area will be punished, regardless of position or political affiliation. As soon as the people see that I mean what I say, things improve."

As if to validate his judgement, a local civilian told me, "In this area democracy is here. The security forces help us."

Most people, it is clear, do not want to become insurgents. Rather, when the immediate abuses of the system are halted, they are only too willing to go back to the business of figuring out how they are going to put bread on the table. And, because they retain faith that ultimately the democratic system will respond to them, they are only too willing to inform on the JVP once they see that there is a viable hope for functioning democracy.

There are dangers inherent to such a posture, of course. Most fundamentally, it cannot go on forever.

"The situation requires a political solution," observes a coordinating officer. "The security forces are only suppressing what the problems throw up. My troops are tired. We have been at this for six straight years, first in the north, now here. The boys cannot go home on leave [due to the JVP terror campaign]; their families are not safe. We are still holding up, but everyone has his breaking point."

Similarly, the constant strain of operations can lead to abuses. Though I witnessed no such indiscipline, the daily papers carry claims of innocent civilians killed in the course of stability operations. Undoubtedly, at least some are accurate.

On operations I accompanied, though, troop behavior was consistently good. This is remarkable given the human engineering involved in an average cordon and search, Sri Lankan style.

An area is surrounded; then every young male is taken to a collection point. Subsequently, at a central processing facility, each individual has his identity card checked and his presence matched against village registers. Any stranger who cannot explain his presence in the area is detained, as are those identified by JVP defectors, "magic eyes" who view the lineup from concealed positions just as in any detective movie. As quickly as the individuals are checked out OK, they are sent out the front door to the arms of waiting, often wailing, relatives.

The average "take" seems to be low. Typically, in one operation I accompanied, a single youth, of hundreds processed, was found in possession of JVP literature and

Continued on page 101



Soviet KLMK camouflage face mask, which author describes as conjuring up a punk Lone Ranger.

WHEN Lieutenant General Boris Gromov stepped onto the bridge that joins Afghanistan and the Soviet Union across the Amu Darya River, he turned his back on more than humiliating defeat after nine years of protracted war with the mujahideen resistance fighters. He turned his back on some 250 Soviet MIAs — prisoners of the muj — and an estimated 15,000 KIAs. He also left behind massive amounts of war materiel ranging from *small arms* — AKs, RPGs and recoilless rifles — up to heavy artillery and the transportation to deploy this arsenal of captured arms, and also the more humble, but no less important, accouterments of the Soviet conscript's kit — his uniform and insignia.

In the two years prior to the Soviet military pullout from Afghanistan this apparel began

turning up in ever-increasing amounts in the city of Peshawar, capital of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province (NWFP), which borders eastern Afghanistan.

Peshawar, which is connected by road to the Afghan capital Kabul via the famous Khyber Pass, is a frontier town and home of that fiercely proud and independent tribesman, the Pathan. Whether he be an Afridi, a Mahmand, a Turi or a Waziri, the Pathan bows to no man. Even today Pathan tribal turf is not fully integrated into the federal union that is Pakistan. The NWFP is divided into two zones known as the Settled Districts and the Tribal Areas.

The Settled Districts, including Peshawar, come under the full jurisdiction of the local and central governments, whereas the Tribal Areas, comprising seven so-called Political Agencies, are semi-autonomous, a legacy of the Imperial British Empire's failure to subjugate the warrior-like Pathans.

In their villages in the Tribal Areas of the NWFP the Pathans rule themselves, invest-

ing obedience in a code of honor called *Pukhtunwali* rather than individual leaders, wherein breaches of conduct are generally tried in open forum known as the tribal *jirga*, in which every man may exercise his right of say.

Even though a Pathan owes allegiance only to his immediate clan and thereafter his tribe, Pukhtunwali calls for hospitality to strangers and the granting of sanctuary to those on the run, whether running from the law or from another clan as the result of a killing. Pathans are often quick to take offense at slights real or imagined, and insults or transgressions against one's kin call

BORDER TALK

Jake Border is a regular SOF correspondent who has spent many months inside Afghanistan. His most recent article was "Bagh-i-Zaqira Garden Party," December '89.

BIZARRE BAZAAR

Afghan Plunder Makes for Post-War Profits

Text & Photos by Jake Border



for *badal*, or revenge — usually out of the barrel of a gun.

Killings are common and sometimes *badal* results in family feuds which carry over from one generation to the next. This explains, in part, the Pathan penchant for guns. But while Pathans are quick on the draw to satisfy honor over a wrongdoing among themselves, they are even quicker at closing ranks and uniting to defend themselves against the interference of an outsider, as both the British last century and the Russians more recently have learned at great expense.

What has this got to do with Russian uniforms in Peshawar? Just about everything. The Durand Line, drawn upon a map in 1893 to determine the accepted international boundary between what was then British Raj-ruled India and Afghanistan, cut right through the traditional homelands of the Pathans, so that today the Pathans are a nation divided. Cartographically speaking, that is.

BELOW: Afghan “war rugs” are cheap but attractive collector’s items available in Pakistan — and at the SOF Convention.

Whatever their internal differences may be, Pathans are no respecters of arbitrary lines drawn on paper. They cross mountain passes at will from one country to the other with an ability that confounds all authorities trying to impose regulation on their movements.

It was this ability that contributed so greatly to the Russians’ defeat, for they found it impossible to bottle up the mujahideen and strangle them of supplies needed for their war effort. And so it is today for the Pakistan authorities trying to control the epidemic of smuggling across the border from Afghanistan to the villages and towns of the NWFP.

Only on the main roads in the Tribal Areas does the Pakistan government have any authority over the Pathans, so contraband is simply trucked or packed by mules over small trails where the authorities would have no jurisdiction even if they knew of their existence. Foreign liquor — Scotch whiskey and Russian vodka — for example,



finds its way from Afghanistan to the black market of Peshawar in this way, where in spite of religious prohibition there is a ready demand from buyers willing to pay the exorbitant prices.

Drugs arrive in the same manner. It is in the Tribal Areas of the NFWP that much of Afghanistan's opium crop is converted to high-grade heroin, later to be smuggled to a growing domestic, and ever-needy, international market. The tribal town of Old Barra, once an entrepot for predominantly Japanese-made consumer goods smuggled from Afghanistan, has now been closed down and re-established just on the outskirts of Peshawar, on the main road to the Khyber Pass, because of its more sinister trafficking in hashish and heroin. New Barra is easier for the law to keep an eye on.

Darra, the town in Adam Khel territory south of Peshawar, has long been associated with the arms trade, and the war in Afghanistan accelerated its prominence, as Soviet weapons trickled across the border for sale there. In Peshawar, Afghan refugees who run souvenir and handicraft shops were quick to seize the opportunity to profit from the Soviet presence in their country through their connections on both sides of the porous border.

Soviet military gear began going on sale. At first it was predominantly the brass-buckled belts with the characteristic ham-

mer and sickle inside the large star that appeared, and more often than not they were second-hand goods — a grisly, if graphic, reminder that not all the 100,000 Soviet occupation troops who entered Afghanistan were rotated out or shipped home by 15 February 1989.

Cap badges also appeared at the same time, often disfigured by pious muj venting their anti-communist venom, but gradually, as the canny Afghan dealers got in tune with Western demands, they began supplying the traditional *ushanka* fur hats and service caps with badges. These were often brand new stock, direct from the quartermaster's stores. This move was prompted by British and American buyers placing orders with the Afghan merchants, who were in turn aided by corrupt Ivans willing to supply their requirements.

As one Afghan merchant put it, "Most of this stuff comes from direct sales with the *shuravi* [enemy]. From the base an officer, never a lower rank, makes contact with some Afghans. Usually he wants to acquire something — hashish, Afghan clothes to resell — but he has no cash to offer. Therefore he comes up with uniforms, belts and badges instead."

Cruising the bazaars of Peshawar, I soon discovered the best stock of Soviet paraphernalia in a small shop down a lane just up from Green's Hotel on Saddar, the main

street of the new city of Peshawar. Abdul was pleased to meet someone who had been inside Afghanistan and who could speak a little Farsi, but it didn't help in getting cheaper prices.

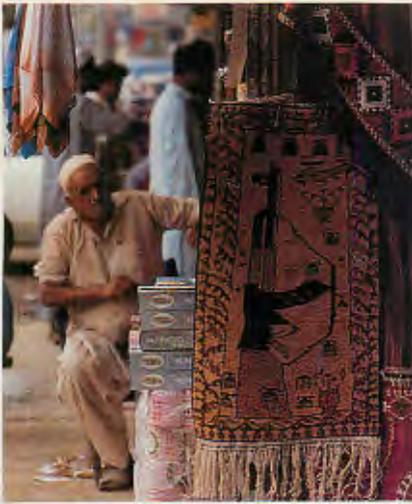
In 1984-85 Abdul stocked a few army belts; by 1987-88 he had a full range of insignia and uniforms. There were cheap metal buttons with the hammer and sickle emblem; arm patches from various units, most commonly motorized rifle troops and airborne troops; colored collar tabs; cap badges of several ranks, ranging from plain red stars through elegant gold-leaf clustered cockades; and several kinds of branch emblems worn as lapel pins such as the crossed cannon of the artillery and the small tank of the armored troops.

There were shoulder boards of privates (red) and sergeants (blue), both with the Cyrillic inscription "CA" — meaning "*Sovietskaya Armiya*," as well as the more elaborately decorated officer's boards with stars and braid. What I noticed in common among all this gear was its shoddy manufacture. The cap badges looked like the free gifts I used to get out of the breakfast cornies box when I was a kid, and one set of red shoulder boards I examined were stiffened not with the usual plain cardboard but with cuttings from *Pravda*!

The price for Soviet army belts has always been about Rs (rupees) 50-60 (U.S.

Arms shop in Landi Kotal. You name it, they've got it. Hand grenades, AKs, RPG-18s, radios, flares, tank periscopes, bayonets, LMGs, and everything else under the sun.





TOP: Kalashnikov carpets are woven by enterprising Afghan refugees who have created pieces depicting AKs, RPGs, pistols, bullets, tanks and helicopters.

ABOVE: All types of military clothing are for sale in Rawalpindi bazaar. Here author tries on U.S. field jacket.

\$2.50-3.00); shoulder boards Rs 100 (\$5) a pair; cap badges, depending on size, from Rs 100-120 (\$5-6). Better deals can sometimes be found buying hat and badge together — I got a synthetic fur *ushanka* for Rs 250 (\$12.50) and an officer's parade cap for only Rs 180 (\$9). Some goods have already disappeared from the market since the Soviet pullout, especially arm patches, which used to be common and cheap at Rs 50 (\$2.50) each. No longer. Now they are extremely rare. Afghan ingenuity has solved that little problem, albeit fraudulently, by manufacturing fakes! The black tank helmets are still common, if expensive (Rs 800, U.S. \$40), but some of them are said to be of Chinese origin, having been provided for the Chinese-made T-59 battle tanks in use by the Pakistan army.

The *komuflirovanniy letniy maskirovochniy kombinezon* (KLMK) camouflage Soviet battle-smock is an interesting collector's item. Initially issued for snipers,

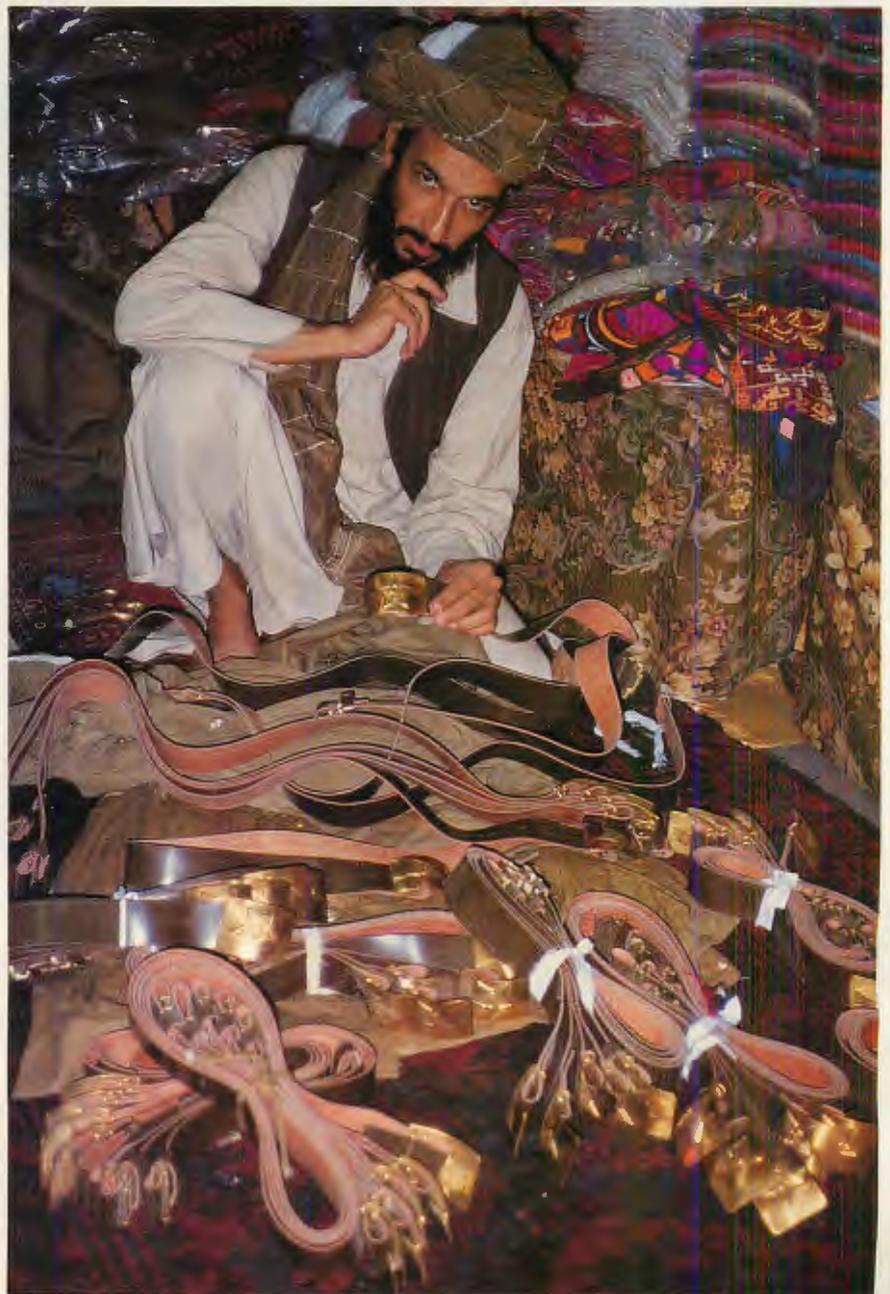
it is now in general use by all ranks. Abdul had six of them in the winter of 1987, when he sold me one for Rs 650 (\$32.50). A deadly looking outfit, it is reversible, features a "crap-flap" in the back and also comes with a matching eye-mask that conjures images of a punk Lone Ranger.

The following year I wanted a KLMK for a mate and Abdul had none — not only couldn't get any more, but wanted to buy mine back again. Although the Peshawar price would be about Rs 800-1000 (\$40-50) if available, I bought two pairs in late 1988 in the Panjshir Valley for the Afghan equivalent of Rs 150 (\$7.50) each. Just like the summer Soviet army khaki uniforms that Ahmad Shah Masoud's Central Units forces wear, these KLMK were purchased wholesale from Kabul in brand new condition.

While buying that KLMK from Abdul that year, I met a young American-educated Afghan who was out in Pakistan on holiday. Yamar claimed to be related to Gailani of the NIFA mujahideen party, with whom he had just spent three weeks in the Kunar. He had found a place in the old city of Peshawar that sold the Soviet AKM bayonets and would show me; perhaps I could get a cheap price too. I couldn't — his cost only Rs 800 (\$40) but I had to pay Rs 1000 (\$50). I was told that was cheap; some foreigners were paying as much as U.S. \$100 cash. At least I had matching serial numbers on the blade and the sheath.

That seems crazy now, for a year later in Peshawar the price had dropped to only Rs 5-600 (\$30). Even Abdul would let one go for that price. By 1989 Abdul had shifted

BELOW: Brand new Soviet belts for sale in Peshawar. Canny Afghan merchants wanting to cash in on demand for Soviet paraphernalia often buy goods from corrupt Ivans looking to make a buck.





ABOVE: Peshawar merchant has various Soviet badges for sale, displayed on carpet decorated with Kalashnikov.

TOP: Peter Jouvenal, filmmaker and dealer in Soviet uniforms.

ABOVE: Paki "entrepreneurs" manufacture phoney Sov gear. Note fake shoulder board and arm patch with upside down hammer and sickle.

gears again, and with the offensive against Jalalabad in full swing he was handling bulk stock, most of which had been smuggled into Peshawar and sold to him by mujahideen in need of spending money.

What Abdul didn't stock you couldn't guess. He had the lot. Name it: flak vests (Rs 3,500, \$175), usually with a bullet hole somewhere testifying more often than not to the satisfied curiosity of the muj; rubberized NBC suits (Rs 600, \$30); parachutes (Rs 11,000, \$550); BTR-60 infrared night vi-

sion periscopes (Rs 1,500, \$75); brand new khaki summer uniforms (Rs 600, \$30); khaki summer-issue bush hats with red star (Rs 120, \$6); rucksacks (Rs 100, \$5); water bottles (Rs 150, \$7.50); and tank radios, overcoats, weapons-cleaning kits, ammo pouches, gas masks and helmets.

One day, a Slavic type walked into Abdul's shop as we sat drinking green tea and discussing prices for some insignia I wanted. He spoke fluent Farsi and I thought he was Abdul's friend by the familiarity with which he poked around. He looked

over the Russian stuff, remarked on its origins as if to confirm his findings, then walked out again without showing any interest in buying. "He has a face like a Russian," said Abdul, who had never seen him before.

Looks like a Russian — my thought exactly. Perhaps the opposition was keeping tabs on the flow of materiel from Afghanistan. Apparently the Pak authorities did too. At one shop the owner insisted that every-



Miscellaneous Soviet military kit in Afghan shop in Peshawar. From left: parachute (in window), NBC suit, gas mask, gas mask filters (on floor), radios and water bottles, assorted uniforms.

thing be photographed inside; he was afraid the police would harass him if they saw any military gear. "Very problem," he argued. "Police coming asking where you get this from?"

My guess is that the Paks are more concerned about bombs or explosives being smuggled into Peshawar along with the innocuous equipment. Actually it would be relatively easy to do this — you can buy hand grenades in the New Barra bazaar, which straddles the boundary line between Tribal and Settled areas. There are police and customs checkpoints there but checks are cursory.

Less than an hour's drive west of Peshawar brings you to the town of Landi Kotal, about 15 minutes short of the border post of Torkham on the other side of the Khyber Pass. It's off limits to foreigners without a special permit but it's not difficult to reach if you pass yourself off as an Afghan. Landi Kotal is not without a government presence (at least two ZKU-23-4 anti-aircraft guns can be seen from the main bazaar), but otherwise it's tribal territory — and anything goes.

Apart from the drug bazaar where shopkeepers openly sell hashish in a great many varieties of form and quality, as well as conducting more discreet dealings in opium and heroin, Landi Kotal has a fantastic arms bazaar, now fed from the conflict around Jalalabad. Weapons range in sophistication from simple .25-caliber pen pistols inscribed "Made in Japan" (Rs 60, \$3) to 23mm ZKU cannons (Rs 90,000, \$4,500). I saw a group of Wahabi Arabs buying 82mm Egyptian-made mortars (Rs 20,000 each, \$1,000) and a mujahideen commander selling Russian-made Kalashnikovs (Rs 12,500 each, \$625). You could buy seven different types of hand grenade (including willie-peter), an RPG-7, RPG-18 or an 82mm

recoilless rifle. And here AKM bayonets were a mere Rs 200 (\$10) each.

For crowd control you could pick up a 7.62mm PK GPMG for Rs 40,000 (\$200) (ammo no problem) or for personal defense a Tokarev TT-33 pistol for Rs 10,000 (\$500). For the antique buff there was a Maxim dated "Berlin 1918," for the Korean War vet an M1 carbine and for the hit-man there was an UZI packed in a neat little attache case.

Russian kit is now even turning up as far afield from the battle front as Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. In several locations, belts, fur hats and complete uniforms are being offered for sale, at slightly inflated

prices over Peshawar. AKM bayonets are being flogged for U.S. \$200 each, and no doubt finding willing buyers among members of the diplomatic community there eager to impress visitors with the heroics of their job by showing off a piece of genuine wartime military memorabilia.

Sadly, not all the military kit for sale has come from the battle zone. In the main bazaar of Islamabad's sister city, Rawalpindi, Afghans and locals are selling field jackets and sleeping bags donated to the mujahideen political parties for their fighters in the field. Some (new) jackets still carry the label which reads: "Gift from the Saudi Red Crescent Relief Committee"; others (used) carry the logo "U.S. Army."

Now whether there is wholesale dumping by the political parties or whether individual muj who have been recipients of these gifts later sell them for profit is not clear; a mixture of both is probably true. However, in a district of the old city of Peshawar called Afghan Colony there is a bazaar that has been dubbed by long-staying Westerners here as the "U.S. Aid Bazaar," since the bulk of the military clothing is ex-U.S. Army.

I have personally kitted myself for several trips inside Afghanistan with gear bought here. A lot dates from Vietnam — flak vests, jungle boots, rip-stop cammie pants, combat jackets, etc. More exotic finds were air force winter pants with zips all over and a pilot's survival vest with enough pockets and pouches for every conceivable type of gadget and weapon.

The precedent for this trade in military surplus goes back to the time of the British. There is yet another bazaar just off Sadder in the new city that deals in moldy remnants of the allies' struggle against fascism. Here,

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Shop at Landi Kotal, Pathan tribal territory, near the Khyber Pass. Note 23mm ZKU and 82mm mortar.

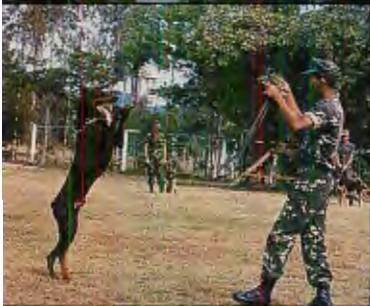


SOF UNCONVENTIONAL OPS

SEMPER FIDO

Thailand's K-9 School Trains Dogs of War

by Mike Williams
Photos by
Robert K. Brown





IN the early morning darkness Private Shorty Shepherd moved slowly through heavy bush along the Thai-Laotian border. His patrol sector covered the perimeter of the U.S. Air Force base at Udorn, Thailand, a prime target for Communist Terrorist (CT) sappers intent on infiltrating the base and attacking the combat aircraft present.

From time to time Shorty would stop and listen carefully for any sound that might indicate enemy presence. Although there was a faint breeze, it provided no relief from the damp heat, only stirring the occasional flight of mosquitoes searching for food.

Suddenly, a few meters to Shepherd's front, a black-clad figure rose from the bush, a satchel charge in one hand, an AK in the other. Without a second's hesitation, Shorty attacked the terr, who whirled and fired, hitting him in the chest, spinning him around, but not stopping his charge. Both figures smashed into the ground, Shorty on top, the CT below struggling to free his AK for a killing shot. The only sounds heard were hoarse grunts from the fighting pair, then a scream of agony as the terr's right forearm snapped with a sharp crack. Although Pvt. Shepherd had no arms, he had an awesome set of murderous teeth with a 2,000-pounds per square inch pressure capability.

When help arrived, Shorty was medevaced and treated for the chest wounds from which he fully recovered.

That action, on 13 January 1968, marked the first incident of combat involving a scout dog trained by the U.S. Army for duty

in Thailand against Communist Terrorist infiltrators.

Shorty returned to active duty and lived to the ripe old age of 13 before passing on to the big kennel in the sky. His remains, with the help of an expert taxidermist, can be seen at the headquarters of the Military Dog Center at Pak Chong, Thailand.

If Shorty were alive today he would be proud of his successors, all 1,000 of them, who are being trained at the center. They all possess the same courage and fighting spirit that made Shorty unhesitatingly take on a CT with an AK and take him down even after he'd himself been shot at close range.

Through the courtesy of the Thai army our SOF team, Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown, Paul Fanshaw and myself, were cleared to visit the center and report on its activities. On our arrival we were met by the deputy commander, Colonel Suban Nantawan, representing the commanding officer, Colonel Suwanasung, who was away at the time. We were escorted by Col. Nantawan to a briefing area facing a large parade field where a series of demonstrations of the dogs' capabilities were held.

Covering approximately 100 acres, the center houses 1,000 dogs, 600 army person-

Thais have largest canine operation in the world. Over 1,000 dogs are in various stages of training.

nel and six full-time veterinarians. It was founded 21 years ago in response to excessive Thai casualties from mines and booby traps. The U.S. Army sent cadre to organize the operation, which is now the largest in the free world, an ironic comparison to the current, nearly nonexistent, U.S. capabilities in the area of canine warfare.

The United States currently has only one large facility, shared by all branches of the military, at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. The U.S. Air Force uses dogs to the greatest extent, with the other branches relying more on high-tech detection devices.

Dogs bred at the Pak Chong center are trained in one or more of the following areas: mine, narcotics and firearms detection, sentry and patrol techniques and attack training. The school completes two to three classes per year, each class consisting of 40 to 80 students.

Any unit in the Thai military may request

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LEFT: Thai dog trainer orders German Shepherd to attack SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown.

TOP INSET: Private Shorty Shepherd still intimidates visitors to the Pak Chong Military Dog Center.

CENTER INSET: Doberman during obedience training.

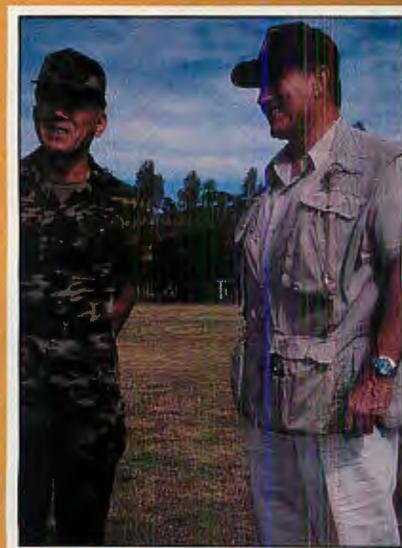
BOTTOM FAR LEFT: Thai canine units are used extensively by Thai military and police.

BOTTOM LEFT: Anyone for inviting the Rottweilers over for dinner?

TO PAK CHONG WITH PEN & PURINA

Mike Williams' name last graced these pages when he wrote the two-part article "Omega Jihad" (SOF, September and October '88) detailing his and SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown's trek into Afghanistan. He recently accompanied RKB to Thailand to investigate the circumstances surrounding SOF Foreign Correspondent Lance Motley's death (see "Killed in Action," SOF, November '89). This article came out of that trip.

Williams is himself no stranger to combat, having been on the sharp end in Italy during World War II, Korea in 1953, Katanga, Africa, in 1964 and in Rhodesia in the late '70s.





DURING the 19th century, France played an important role in the development of military small arms. The percussion cap, expanding-base bullet, self-contained metallic cartridge and smokeless powder were all French inventions. However, during the 20th century the French have generally marched to a different drummer, and the rest of the world has paid scant attention to their small arms.

This has been partially a consequence of French insistence on calibers unique to their shores and partially a consequence of, in some cases, inadequate performance. An example of at least the former attribute is the 7.5x54mm French MAS cartridge (also

known as the 7.5mm MAS or 7.5mm French M1929C). As it was difficult to design a machine gun around the rimmed 8mm Lebel cartridge, after World War I the French developed and introduced (in 1920) a rimless, bottleneck round broadly based on the German 7.92mm service cartridge and originally known as the *Cartouche a Balle 7.5mm Mle 1924* (for the year of its formal adoption by the French army). In 1928, its case was shortened from 58mm to 54mm to preclude loading German 7.92mm ammunition into French weapons, since German Maxim machine guns were still widely used for training purposes and, furthermore, the shorter case proved capa-

French Legionnaire of the 1st REC (Cavalry Regiment) on maneuvers in France, circa 1965. His MAS Model 49/56 rifle is equipped with a blank firing attachment. Photo: Bill Brooks collection

ble of the same exterior ballistic performance. The new round was tested and eventually adopted in 1929 for issue with the model 1924/29 Chatellerault light machine gun (gas-operated and based on the BAR's breech-locking system). In 1934, the Berthier Model 1907/15 rifle was modified for this cartridge and it remained the standard French service round until adoption of the 5.56mm FA MAS bullpup in 1979. With a 139-grain Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) bullet traveling at about 2,790 fps from the muzzle, the 7.5x54mm French MAS cartridge is more than adequate and roughly equivalent to the .30-40 Krag, .303 British and Swiss 7.5x55mm M1911 (to which it is dimensionally similar) rounds.

The flow of foreign military small arms to



Member of French Foreign Legion 13th DBLE (Half Brigade) rifle team on duty in Djibouti in 1975 demonstrates an elegant off-hand position with his MAS Model 49/56 rifle that would be of little use in combat. Photo: Bill Brooks

VIVE LES GUNS

French Surplus Rifles Target U.S. Firearms Market

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

the United States resumed with passage of the Dole Amendment to the Gun Control Act of 1968 on 30 October 1984. A modest number of rifles chambered for the 7.5x54mm French MAS cartridge have been imported by Century International Arms, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 5 Federal Street, St. Albans, VT 05478; phone: (802) 527-1252). This includes not only the MAS Model 1936 turn-bolt and its variants but the MAS 44, 49 and 49/56 semiautomatic rifles, the later two of which, although manufactured subsequent to 1946, may enter the United States because they have been placed on the BATF's list of curios and relics. Prices are reasonable and now that ammunition is also available, these ugly beasts deserve consideration by both shooters and collectors alike.

In 1932, the *Manufacture Nationale d'Arms de St. Etienne* (MAS) introduced a bolt-action rifle called the MAS Model 1932 Type A for the M1929C cartridge. The final version was adopted four years later as the MAS Model 1936. Its action has been the subject of much undeserved criticism.

The magazine body is an integral part of the receiver's forging. A ring of steel in the receiver, against which the chamber end of the barrel butts, surrounds the bolt head when it is closed. The ejection port commences at this ring and extends to the unslotted receiver bridge. The bolt is a one-piece design of large diameter. The two locking lugs are located about 1.75 inches from the rear of the bolt body and lock high in the left wall and low in the right wall of the receiver bridge. This has been ridiculed, but experiences in the muddy trenches of World War I indicated that the British S.M.L.E. was easier to clean and less prone to stoppages because of its rear-mounted locking lugs. The bolt handle and its collar are both integral with the bolt body. The bolt handle is swept forward and this seems to irritate some shooters as well. The bolt is

drilled and capped at the rear to accept a one-piece hollow firing pin with its cocking nose at the rear and a self-contained spring, both in a manner reminiscent of the Japanese Type 38/99 Arisaka rifles. The extractor is a conventional long flat spring with claw, but quite massive. The ejector is a forward protrusion of the bolt stop operating through a slot in the bolt body. The bolt stop itself is a spring-loaded steel block, attached to the sear, that projects into the boltway from below. Pressing the trigger will lower the stop to permit removal of the bolt.

The staggered, box-type magazine holds five rounds and can be loaded singly or by means of a stripper clip. The magazine follower rises in front of the bolt to hold it open when the magazine is empty. Pressing a spring-loaded catch on the front and right side of the magazine floorplate will remove the floorplate, spring and follower. There is no magazine cutoff or manual safety. As a consequence of the latter deficiency, the chamber should remain uncharged until you are ready to fire. The trigger is the standard military two-stage type with a pull weight of approximately 5 pounds.

The MAS M1936 rifle weighs approximately 8.3 pounds empty — not exceptional for this era. Overall length is about 40 inches with a barrel length of 22.6 inches. The four-groove barrel has a left-hand twist of one turn in 10.6 inches.

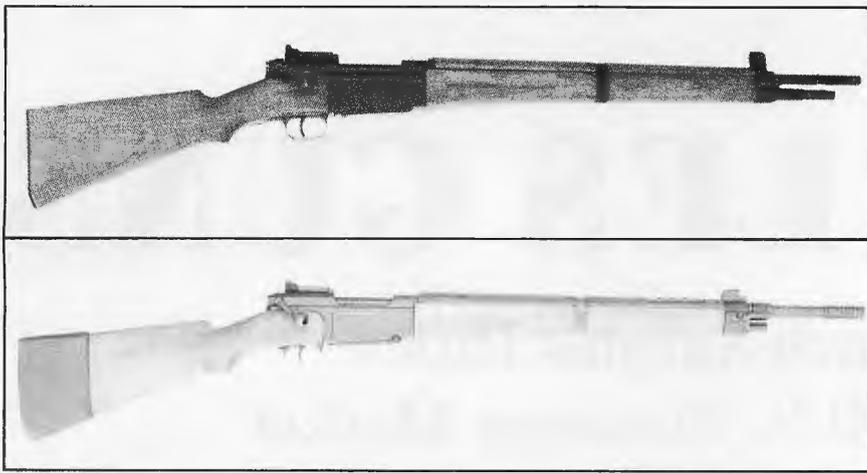
Purists also demean the M1936's two-piece stock as this supposedly degrades accuracy potential, although it seems to have had no deleterious effect on the RF-F1 sniper rifle based upon this action. The buttstock, equipped with a smooth steel buttplate, is held onto the receiver with a single, peened screw. The separate fore end and full-length wooden handguard are held to barrel by a band with the front sling ring and with an end cap with the front sight and a stacking hook. The rear sling bar is held to

the left side of the buttstock with two screws. Wood furniture is usually beech, but sometimes walnut was used. The leather sling is profusely ink-stamped with government markings, as is all French leather gear.

The front end cap contains an integral protective hood for the fixed, blade-type front sight whose rear, serrated surface is



Left to right: French 7.5x58mm cartridge adopted in 1924 was abandoned just five years later and replaced, without any significant loss in exterior ballistic performance, by the shorter 7.5x54mm round. Change was made to preclude chambering then ubiquitous German 7.92mm ammunition in French weapons.



TOP: MAS Model 1936 bolt-action rifle features rear-mounted locking lugs. Although this has been criticized, rifle is a sturdy and reliable infantry weapon.

ABOVE: MAS Model 1936/51 has grenade launching capability and was used by French troops at Dien Bien Phu. Note the slip-on rubber boot on the buttstock which helped to moderate the recoil impulse of rifle grenades.

sometimes painted red. The sliding tangent rear sight, with a peep aperture, permits adjustment of elevation from 200 to 1,200 meters (an atavism dating to the era of massed rifle fire) and is mounted on the receiver bridge. No adjustment for windage zero is possible and this is a legitimate criticism.

A cruciform, skewer-type bayonet of 17 inches in overall length is housed in a tube underneath the barrel. The tube also serves as its mount when the bayonet is withdrawn and reversed. Bayonets of this configuration can be used for no more than stabbing thrusts at the enemy and for roasting sausages, and as such leave a great deal to be desired.

All together, the MAS M1936 is a sturdy,

safe and reliable turn-bolt, albeit somewhat stodgy in appearance. Depending upon condition, these rifles currently fetch between \$65 and \$95. Finish is usually phosphate with some components found with black enamel over the phosphate.

There are some interesting variants of the MAS M1936, several of which are rather uncommon. Most rare is the paratroop version, designated as the M1936 CR39 rifle. It has a folding aluminum stock, hinged just in front of the trigger guard, that swings under and to the left of the receiver and barrel. The forearm, handguard and barrel are also somewhat different in dimensions from the standard MAS 1936. About a decade ago, Sarco, Inc. of Stirling, New Jersey, imported several hundred demilled CR39

MAS Model 1944 bolt group — the bolt drops down to lock in a recess in the receiver and against a locking block that can be replaced if worn. Firing pin springs were usually not used in this series of rifles. Note the gas tube under the bolt body and similarity to that of the M16.



rifles (purchased from a Belgian scrap dealer) and assembled the buttstocks and, in some instances, the barrels, forearms and handguards to standard M1936 receivers. As they are only replicas and Sarco never suggested they were anything other, these CR39 look-alikes are currently worth no more than \$250 or less.

Also rarely seen is the .22 LR training rifle version of the MAS M1936. It features a .22 LR caliber barrel and uses U.S. Hofer-Thompson type sub-caliber chamber inserts into which each round is placed. These variants sell now for up to \$450 depending upon condition.

Less rare, but equally interesting, are those variants of the MAS M1936 modified for launching rifle grenades. Most frequently encountered is the MAS M1936/51 which has an adjustable grenade launcher sight attached to the left side of the forearm/handguard's end cap, a shortened stacking hook, and protective ears instead of a hood on the rifle's front sight. Turning a geared wheel on the grenade launching sight moves the sliding nut (graduated with numbers from 10 to 40) on the barrel's 22mm grenade launching sleeve (actually rings machined on the barrel surface near the muzzle) forward or rearward. When pivoted away from the handguard, the grenade launching sight has two positions, which will place the barrel's axis either 45 or 74 degrees from the ground. A square notch and fixed front sight on the left bar of the sight assembly are used fire to the grenade with the rifle butt on the ground and the sight set at the 45-degree position. Anti-tank grenades can be fired from the standing position with the sight opened to the 74-degree position.

This rifle is somewhat heavier and longer than the standard MAS 1936 and is equipped with a slip-on rubber boot on the butt marked "MAS 1951." Ballistite (blank) cartridges, housed in the grenade's tail, are used to launch the grenade.

Some MAS M1936/51 specimens appear to be brand new, but those imported to the United States were actually rebuilt at the ERM Chalons/Marne arsenal in 1977. Rebuilt, re-phosphated and in essentially new condition, MAS M1936/51 rifles are worth approximately \$200. To date, no more than 3,000 MAS 1936 and 1936/51 rifles have been imported by Century International Arms, however tens of thousands more rest in racks in French warehouses. All of these rifles will be marked on the left side of the receiver with their serial numbers, "MAS" and either "MLE 1936" or "MLE 1936-51."

Less common are the M1936 LG 48 rifles, distinguished from the M1936/51 variants by only a "G" marked on the barrel. Their grenade launching sleeves are of a different diameter, and they will accept only the anti-personnel Model 1948 grenade.

French experiments with semiautomatic rifles commenced in 1900 with the obscure 6mm rimless Meunier, Series A, which led to the 7mm rimless A6-STA 8 series. Both were based upon the long recoil method of operation eventually employed in the dread-

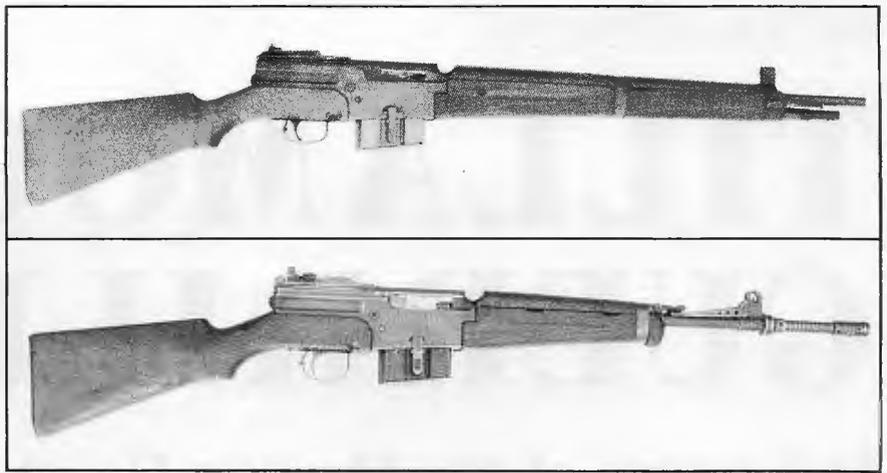
ful Chauchat light machine gun and are today barely footnotes in the history of military small arms.

Toward the end of World War I, MAS produced a gas-operated rifle known as the *Fusil Mitrailleur RSC Mle 1917*. (The "RSC" part of the designation stands for its designers: Ribeyrolle, Sutter and Chauchat). Mle 1918 in the series was an attempt to improve this grotesque and awkward-looking weapon by shortening and lightening it and by modifying the feed system to accept the standard M1916 stripper clip. Both are commonly known as the "Saint-Etienne," from the place of their manufacture. A combined total of nearly 90,000 of the two models was manufactured, and the Mle 1918 version saw service in North Africa during the War of The Rif in the 1920s. Some Model 1917s were altered to Model 1918 configuration. In 1935 the surviving rifles were altered to straight-pull bolt-action by blocking the gas port and issued to unfortunate colonial troops in French Equatorial Africa. French interest in semiautomatic rifles faded during the interim between the two world wars.

Smelling Germans once again at their borders, the French awakened from their lethargy and feverishly experimented with hundreds of semiautomatic prototypes between 1938 and 1940. Most promising was another St. Etienne design called the MAS Model 1940. Chambered for the 7.5x54mm French service round, no more than a few hundred were produced before France fell to Herr Schicklgruber's storm troopers. This design was updated in 1944 after the liberation of France and resulted in the MAS Model 1944. By 1946, after only approximately 6,200 MAS 44 rifles had been produced, the French army decided it required grenade launching capability and this was added to what became the MAS 49. Most of the MAS 44 rifles that had already been manufactured were diverted to the French navy.

Both the method of gas operation and the breech locking system are similar to the Swedish AG42 Ljungman rifle, a parallel development of this era. M16 bashers will not appreciate the MAS 44/49 gas system as it was copied by Eugene Stoner in his AR15.

Gas passing through a port in the top of the barrel, 7.17 inches from the rear face of the barrel and 4.8 inches forward of the origin of rifling, is deflected into a steel gas tube that rests along the top of the barrel under the wooden handguard. Removal of the gas tube for replacement involves no more than removal of the two screws that hold the gas block's clamp onto the barrel. The rear end of the gas tube fits into a hole in the bolt carrier. The gas impulse delivered to the bolt carrier drives it rearward. After the carrier travels back about 3/8-inch, cam grooves at the back of the carrier contact lugs on each side of the bolt and lift it out of engagement with a locking block in the bottom of the receiver. The locking block is held in place by a plate that is pinned to the left side of the receiver on the outside by a



TOP: MAS Model 1944 was produced in only limited numbers, but marked the inception of a successful semiautomatic infantry rifle series. Its method of operation was employed in the M16.

ABOVE: Culmination of the MAS caliber 7.5x54mm semiauto rifles was the Model 1949/56 which has a shortened barrel, handguard and forearm and was the last in this series. The grenade launcher sight was moved to the top of the barrel and the skewer-type bayonet replaced with a more useful blade-type.

peened screw. Its design permits replacement of a worn locking block at the arsenal level. The bolt's rocking motion also provides primary extraction for the cartridge case. Propped-breech (tilting bolt), rear-locking systems have been used on many military rifles, such as the Belgian Model 1949 FN and FN FAL, Soviet Tokarev SVT-38/40 and Simonov SKS.

As the bolt and its carrier move rearward, the recoil spring is compressed, the empty case withdrawn from the chamber and the hammer rotated back against its spring. The "bump"-type ejector slides through the left side of the recessed bolt face at a 30-degree angle and projects into a groove on the left receiver wall. Rearward movement of the bolt is halted when the carrier strikes the end

of the receiver. The massive firing pin is not spring-loaded (some specimens of the MAS 44 have been encountered with coil-type retracting springs wrapped around the front of the firing pin) and is held in place by two projections at the end of the carrier. The compressed recoil spring, which rides in a hollow in the rear of the bolt carrier and on a guide rod brazed and pinned to the top cover, drives the bolt group forward to strip a round from the magazine and chamber it.

The trigger mechanism has been taken directly from that of the M1 Garand. Its major components are a hammer with two hooks, a trigger with an extension that is the main sear, and a spring-loaded secondary

Continued on page 94

French military accouterments include Model 1922 leather LBE with pouches for the MAS 44/49 series bayonet and scabbard and the 34mm Model 1952/60 antipersonnel rifle grenade.



TILLAMOOK GUERRILLAS

Defenders of the Oregon Coast

by Don McLean



Spring 1942, a few months after Pearl Harbor: a thick, viscous fog clung to the dark sea as a task force of Japanese I-15 class submarines silently broke water close to the Oregon coast. Led by the I-25 and hidden by fog and darkness from anti-submarine patrols, they had skulked to positions where Fort Stevens to the north and the Navy blimp base at Tillamook to the south were within range of their 5.5-inch guns.

Watertight hangar compartments were opened, and amphibian "Glen" bombers assembled and armed for an air strike on Portland, whose air base and shipyards were only 30 miles away. Rubber launches quietly carried hundreds of Japanese Navy Special Landing Forces ashore in the darkness. The Jap marines quickly established a defensive perimeter at the edge of the sandy

beach while the launches returned to the subs for more troops and materiel. Heavily laden bombers catapulted from the subs and roared over the choppy water, heading east above the fog into the first sliver of neon sunrise.

Andrew Bjorkman carried milk pails, a lantern and a lever-action rifle from his back porch to the milk house as the Japanese bombers flew overhead. Assuming them to be from the nearby naval base, he waved his lantern in greeting as the first 5.5-inch shells exploded north of him on Fort Stevens. Dropping the pails, he doused his lantern and ran for the telephone, stuffing several boxes and a few loose rounds of .30-30 ammunition in his mackinaw as he hurriedly cranked the ringer. He could hear a wailing siren at the firehouse as his cold International flatbed coughed to life and he roared through the neatly painted gate down the muddy road toward Tillamook, just two miles ahead through the now-silvery fog. Reaching the firehouse, he could hear shots from the north jetty area. Enough men had already assembled to fill his truck, each carrying a rifle, their pockets bulging with ammo. Andy paused only long enough for them to clamber aboard while he led the blind Colonel Stewart Arnold and his dog Mac to the cab, then groaned off into the fog toward the sound of rifle fire on the beach.

The Japanese had invaded America! The Tillamook, Seaside, Lincoln and Polk County Guerrillas would meet them in the impenetrable scrub brush at the water's edge. Thousands of volunteer militiamen would fight to the last man, or the last Jap -- whichever came first.

LEFT: Come and raise a meatball over *this* flag, Tojo. Free Men own guns! Fifteen hundred Tillamook Guerrillas muster in March 1942 to be addressed by Colonels Cowgill, Arnold and Owen on methods of coordinating with "regular" units. These are the guns in the hands of free men that HCI et al. ultimately want to take from Americans. Photo: Wide World Photo, by AP photographer Bob Glander.

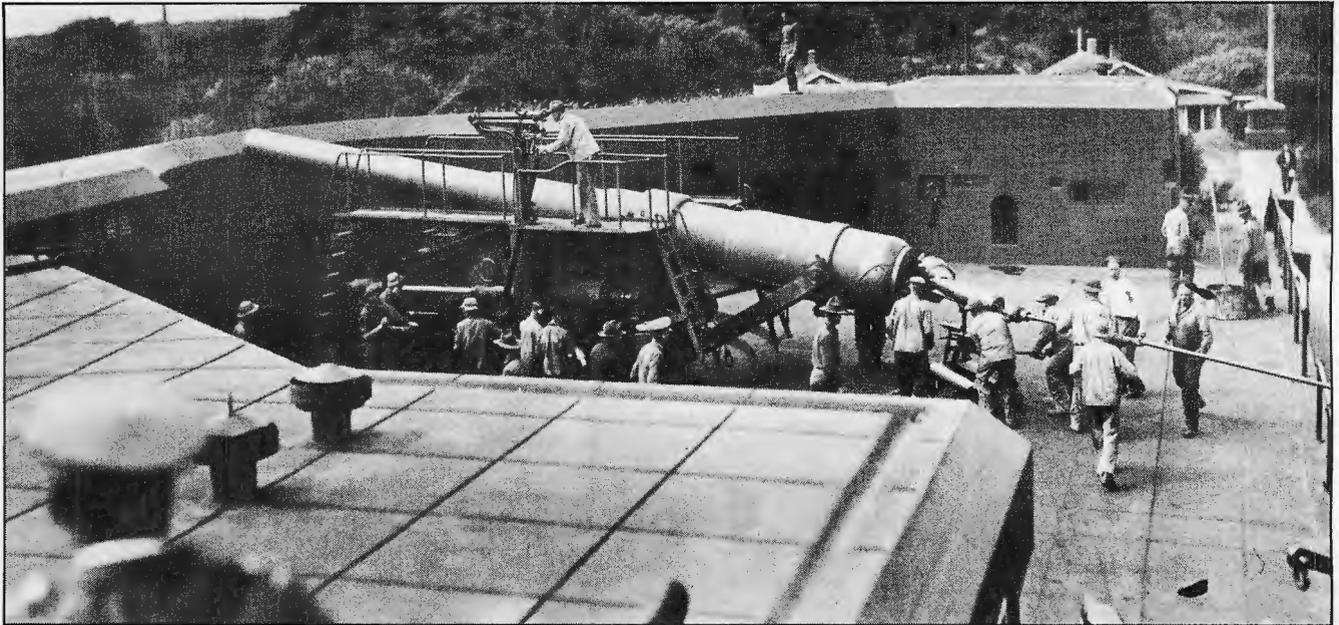
IN the merciful best interests of all parties here concerned, history was to dictate that after careful consideration the Japanese would decide against landing an invasion force in Oregon. They would limit their attacks to token shelling of randomly selected installations along the West Coast, sinking American merchantmen, launching thousands of explosive and incendiary-laden balloons, a couple bombing runs on southern Oregon, and several strikes on Alaska far to the north, where they would establish sea and air bases until driven from American soil the next year.

But in the event the Japanese *had* decided an invasion of the Oregon coast was a strategically viable undertaking — and to do so would have been primarily to distract American forces from Pacific targets the Japanese really thought they could hold — they would have been met on the beach by a fairly well-armed, moderately well-organized, somewhat well-trained, and wholly determined force of volunteer riflemen led by a blind "Colonel" who comprised the Tillamook, Seaside, Lincoln and Polk County Guerrillas.

Local folks along the Oregon coast had a long-standing tradition of pooling the energy of their fierce independence to form cooperative efforts against a common enemy. Until then their greatest common enemy had been fire — the great Tillamook Burn of 1933 still stands as the greatest forest fire in American history. Millions of acres of old-growth timber were burned in a holocaust that rained ashes a foot deep along the Oregon beaches. And when a new common enemy threatened in the form of Impe-

BELOW: Maybe a little camera-shy, but definitely not gun-shy, Capt. George Blum (left), Sgt. Robert Gitchell and Harold Christensen training in the spring of 1942. These were folks who would feed you if hungry, but fight you to last breath if you had evil intent. Senator, care to try and pry that .303 Savage out of George Blum's hands? Photo: *Oregon Journal*, via Oregon Historical Society, Negative No. 83959.





Ten-inch disappearing rifles of Battery Russell, early WW II. Such turn-of-century shore batteries were accurate, but out-ranged by Jap 5.5-inch naval guns. Photo: U.S. Army Signal Corps, courtesy Gale R. Abrams, Historian, Ft. Stevens State Park.

rial Japan, the groundswell of popular resistance began even before the Japanese had shelled the forts and bombed the forests of Oregon.

A call to arms would have been unnecessary, even redundant. It was *preassumed* that the people — as Americans — would fight any invader. With this as a given, only a leader was required to give form and organization. Cast in this role in Tillamook was Stewart B. Arnold, a veteran who had lost his sight — but not his spirit — in World War I. Assuming the rank of Colonel, Arnold organized over 1,500 volunteers into 24 companies. The young sons and reserve officers might be sent away to the war, but should the war come home, these companies of brush fighters, ranging from 30 to 70 men, trained every week to be ready. In the democratic tradition, each company elected its own officers, such as Majors Preston Williams and C.H. Bergstrom of Tillamook, Major Carol Brown of Hebo, and Major Scott of Nehalem.

When the Japs hit Pearl Harbor on 7 December, the very next day a group was formed at Seaside by World War I Captain John M. Jandrell, and the day after that they relieved the Army at guard points such as the reservoir. They were a smaller unit, and drilled in the city park. Mostly loggers, they supplied all their own rifles, ammo and equipment. There was also an informal civil defense effort there under the local police chief, mostly engaged in blackout enforcement.

Toward the end of March, John Dickinson from the small Polk County town of Independence, south and slightly inland from Tillamook, visited the leaders of the Tillamook Guerrillas and returned home to organize the Independence Guerrillas, with the help of Bill Noble, at a meeting in the high school gym. Within a week similar groups were formed in Cooper Hollow, Elkins, Pedee and by a local

Filipino community. These soon united into a single group, the Polk County Guerrillas. Local papers stated that “The purpose of the guerrilla band will be to perform duty as last minute men in case of invasion, protect civilians, assist in case of fires and other needed protection.” Dickinson told the papers, “every community should organize.”

The Lincoln County Guerrillas, next to Tillamook County, sprang up contemporaneously with the Tillamook Guerrillas. They, too, were composed of local volunteers: old-timers, storekeepers, loggers and farmers — just everyday Americans quite willing to take up their personal arms to defend their country.

Although these Good Ol’ Boy Guerrillas did pose for cameras behind the woodpile, in front of the local Civil War cannon and for newsreels on maneuvers with state guard and civilian defense units, these volunteers were not given to parading, posturing or vigilante mentality. Such public exposure was the only token recruiting effort required, as once the word was out loggers, farmers and old men flocked to enlist. They were ready to serve in any useful capacity, rather in the spirit of a volunteer fire department — neighbors banding together to fight a common foe.

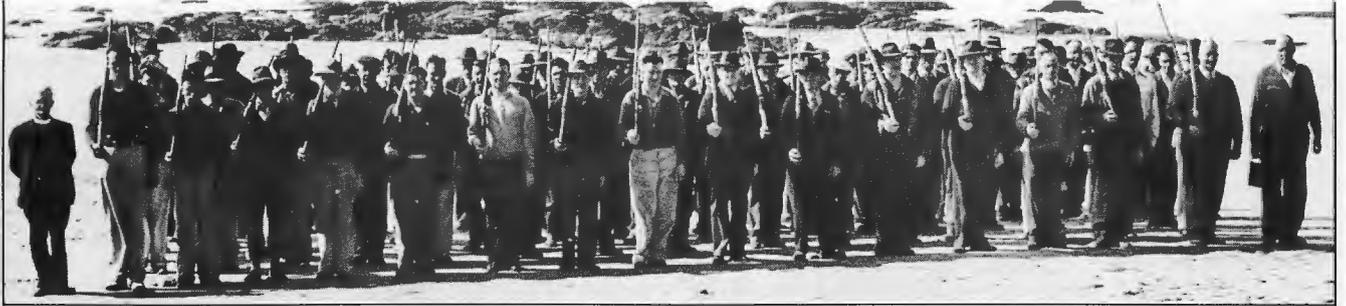
Although they all hoped, of course, to get a shot at an invading Jap, the first line of defense was considered to be the woods. Timberland was mapped off in sectors as the guerrillas prepared to meet the menace from anticipated Jap incendiary bombs and balloons. In light of the critical shortage of agricultural labor, plans were laid for the cooperative harvesting of crops and for evacuating livestock to the mountains if need be. Since free men own guns, they supplied and trained with their own weapons, ammunition and equipment (a study of the photos here will reveal only one

“proper” military weapon, an M1903 Springfield).

These lumber-mill and milk-farm mujahideen swore an oath on the Bible to defend their land to the last man. One can only speculate what they would have done if formal military authority had ordered a civilian evacuation. My guess is they *might* have sent women and kids to higher ground.

The Tillamook Guerrillas — and every other farmstead inland — would not have represented, of course, the only points of resistance to a Japanese invasion. Conventional military forces, although spread very thin, were rapidly gearing up for a possible Japanese invasion in 1942. Not only had Fort Stevens been shelled, but so had Canadian installations, and the oil fields at Goleta, California, had sustained a comic-opera attack from a Jap sub. The Japanese had attacked Dutch Harbor, Alaska, in force and occupied islands there, establishing sea and air bases. Jap subs patrolled the Oregon, Washington and California coasts, attacking many (and sinking several) merchantmen there in 1942.

In addition, a large blimp base was to be built at Tillamook by the Navy. These thin-skinned and ponderous behemoths would patrol offshore for signs of Jap subs or an invasion force. The Sunset Highway (named for Oregon’s own 41st “Sunset” Division who were serving with distinction in New Guinea, and provincial Oregon’s first paved road to go in a straight line rather than meandering a traditional course) was bee-lined to the coast from Portland, ready to carry troops and materiel in response to an invasion. But if for some reason the conventional military were occupied elsewhere, or were overwhelmed by a massive invasion, or were slow to get into the fray, the Tillamook Guerrillas were there: organized, determined, self-armed and able.



"We will fight them on the beaches. . ." So would these 1942 Lincoln County Guerrillas, and they had their own guns to do it. Photo: Oregon Journal, via Oregon Historical Society, Negative No. 71446.

GASBAGS AT WAR

No, this does not deal with the boys down at the VFW after the war, but with the deployment over Oregon of lighter-than-air craft by the Japanese and the U.S. Navy.

As most manned attacks on mainland America and our north Pacific shipping had come from Japanese submarines, the U.S. Navy gave top priority to countering these subs, and the most efficient counter was escort and patrol by an armed blimp. The Tillamook Naval Air Station was built in 1943 as home to one of 15 such lighter-than-air squadrons on the United States, South American, European and African coasts. It is reported that blimps escorted some 89,000 merchant and war ships in World War II without losing a ship. These helium-filled warriors cruised at 50 knots and could hover above a target if necessary. They carried sophisticated (for the time) detection gear, plus .50 Brownings and a load of depth charges, manned by a crew of three officers and 10 enlisted.

Two large hangars — the largest wood structures ever built — were constructed at Tillamook, each of which could house nine of the 252-foot long, 425,000 cubic-foot blimps. The hangars were nearly a quarter-mile long, 300 feet wide, and almost 200 feet tall. One burned after the war, but the other still stands today.

Records reflect that once armed blimps were deployed, the Japs just stopped coming around — a decision no doubt composed of equal parts wisdom and preoccupation with duties elsewhere. The blimps at Tillamook flew hundreds of missions, as their 500-mile range could cover sea lanes from the Strait of Juan de Fuca to northern California. Only one ship was lost to weather, and one sank slowly to its knees in the hangar when a workman near the roof a hundred feet above it dropped a pair of pliers, which fell through the blimp's thin skin. They also depth-charged at least one large whale (oops!), and accidentally bombed a highly prized milk cow with a bag of ballast sand.

Blimps also played a role in shooting floating sea mines, and spotting the bomb-carrying ordnance balloons the Japanese were sending toward America on the jet stream.

Japanese bomb-carrying balloons were one of the best kept secrets of the war. Some 9,000 of these 30-foot balloons were built by the Japanese and over 6,000 of them were launched from three bases north east of Tokyo. They wafted their way to the coast of America where their explosive and incendiary loads were supposed to cause massive death, destruction, forest fires, confusion and panic among the general populace. It was assumed this would have significant impact on the U.S. war effort. It did not.

Probably the major reason these devices did not have more effect was that the Japanese never knew that there was significant effect, and therefore they terminated a program which *could* have produced dramatic results if pursued. Not only were they unaware that the devices were reaching America (of the thousands launched, hundreds have since been found) because we kept a tight lip (something the Japanese specifically thought we could never do), but they did not realize two important points about the ones which did make landfall. First, they launched them at a time of year when it could be certain they would not

drift north to the USSR (they did not want to get it on with them at this point), but which was also the time of year when the coastal forests of North America are least likely to burn because they are soaked with rain and snow and usually fog-bound. The other problem was that although these ordnance balloons had very clever mechanisms to regulate gas pressure and keep them airborne, the initiation and firing mechanisms on the bombs were not reliable, and a good percentage of those which did make landfall did not go off.

One tragic exception occurred in May 1945, when members of a Sunday School picnic, a woman and five children, were killed on Gearhart mountain near Bly, Oregon. The group came upon the device, which carried a 15-kilogram Japanese bomb, and it killed them almost instantly. They were the only deaths by direct enemy action within the continental United States during World War II.

The Japanese program for launching ordnance balloons began as early as 1927, when they worked up an idea for harassing the Soviets on the other side of the Amur River in Manchuria, primarily with propaganda, which was never carried out. Later in the war the Japs were a little worried that trans-oceanic ordnance balloons (they called them "windship weapons") might net them results similar to those experienced by the English when they launched balloon bombs toward Nazi-occupied France, only to have some of them drift over neutral Sweden.

The Japanese navy was well along in the production of a rubberized silk balloon when components for them were destroyed by our ever-increasing incendiary bombings. The army had developed a balloon made from laminated mulberry paper, and it was these which carried nearly all the ordnance that reached North America. A typical payload comprised four separate explosive devices: a 15-kilogram high-explosive shrapnel-type anti-Sunday school bomb, four 5-kilogram thermite-type incendiary bombs, one 2-pound picric-acid explosive block intended to destroy the balloon after its ordnance had been discharged (which also could be rigged as a boobytrap), and a small packet of magnesium flash powder designed to ignite and destroy the hydrogen balloon itself.

Of the thousands launched, only hundreds have been located in the United States and Canada. It is not known how many successfully made landfall, but one thing is for certain: there was a preponderance of duds and there remain scattered over the western part of North America (they have been found as far east as Iowa), many yet to be discovered. They are still deadly, probably more so with the passing of time, as the Japanese had a penchant for using picric acid in metallic canisters. Over the passing of time *very unstable* metallic picrates are formed, which will tolerate no handling whatsoever. Should you be tramping through the northwest and find what looks like a bomb suspended from a circular framework — it probably is. Don't mess with it in any fashion: mark the site and notify the nearest law enforcement personnel. Don't be clever and notify your cousin Fred because he collects Jap stuff (unless, of course, you are named as inheritor of collection).

THE LONGEST DAY; AND YES MARTHA, THE JAPS BOMBED OREGON

It was 21 June, the longest day of 1942, and as the Columbia River fishing fleet hauled in its nets off Cape Disappointment and prepared to return to Astoria they were unaware of the Jap intruder in their midst. Japanese submarine I-25 would use their cover and guidance to avoid mines and anti-submarine nets as she approached the Oregon shore in the twilight which would last until well after 2200.

As the fleet and its phantom consort neared the mouth of the Columbia, Commander Mieji Tagami turned the I-25 south and waited for darkness. A little after 2300 the I-25 surfaced about 20,000 yards off shore from Fort Stevens and her gunners began preparing the 5.5-inch deck gun. At 2300 they commenced firing some 17 rounds of HE in a quick 15-minute barrage — the first intentional shelling of a mainland U.S. military base since the War of 1812 — then fled to the west at flank speed.

Most of the rounds landed either in the sandy beach in front of Ft. Stevens, or in the skunk-cabbage swamp beyond. There were no casualties, and damage was limited to the backstop at a baseball diamond and a couple of commo and electrical transmission lines. In fact, of the 17 rounds which Japanese records reflect were fired, only nine were counted by the intended victims; it is assumed the others were so short they fell harmlessly into the sea, or were unlocated duds. A sign soon appeared on the fence surrounding Ft. Stevens which derided: "9 SHOTS FIRED, 9 SHOTS MISSED, TO HELL WITH YOU HIROHITO."

Neither Battery Russell at Ft. Stevens nor any other shore battery returned fire. Although the submarine was being plotted on the new and then-secret radar almost from the first round, and Captain Jack Woods of Battery Russell reported his men ready to fire almost immediately (wearing skivvies, helmets, and chicken-pox marks from a recent epidemic), the order to fire was not given. Within minutes of the attack, Colonel Carl C. Doney replaced Major Fred Dahlquist at the Harbor Defense command post inside Battery Mishler, and as target information continued to pour in it became increasingly clear that the sub would remain out of range of the turn-of-the-century 10-inch disappearing rifles of our coastal batteries.

Although the frustration of the men who were not allowed to fire back was excruciating, Col. Doney's decision to *not* return fire was sound. To have done so would have revealed to the Jap subs that they had the advantage of range (if not accuracy) over our coastal defense guns, thus could repeat such attacks with impunity as long as they stayed well out to sea. In addition they would have been able to locate each of the batteries or other shore installations which returned fire. As it was, the Japanese were under the impression they were shelling an American submarine base (so much for the premise that the Japs had a vast network of disloyal Japanese-Americans feeding them intelligence).

So Col. Doney's unpopular decision to hold fire restricted the damage to one backstop, holes in the sand and skunk-cabbage swamp, and the feelings of his festering-to-shoot-back gunnery crews. In addition, the incident provided some local boys an opportunity to bust up an old cast-iron cookstove to sell as "Genuine Japanese" souvenir shell fragments — and any experience which helps promote free enterprise can't be all bad. Even though Col. Doney's judgement was totally correct, not letting his men return even a single round of counter-battery to lance their psychological boil was a decision which was tough on

them all. That night 22 men went over the hill and did not return sober. It would not have been a good night to be an Asian in an Astoria gin mill.

Although the I-25 remained quite safe from American fire because of its range, some *Americans* barely escaped hostile American fire. Coastal defenders were a little edgy since they had just learned of the Japanese shelling a Canadian lighthouse and telegraph station at Estewan Point on Vancouver Island the day before. The sound of the I-25 shelling Ft. Stevens was heard at Tillamook Point lighthouse 20 miles south, where the lighthouse keeper waited with only the rusty BB gun he used to defend his arc lamp from the incessant bombing of sea gulls, and the 2-foot thick lighthouse walls to protect him. At Fort Canby, on the Washington side of the Columbia River, a Captain Harris phoned the Cape Disappointment lighthouse and ordered the beacon doused. A short, heated discussion ensued with the coast guard personnel manning the light, whereupon Harris loaded an M1 Garand and offered to shoot it out if it were not dark within 60 seconds. It was.

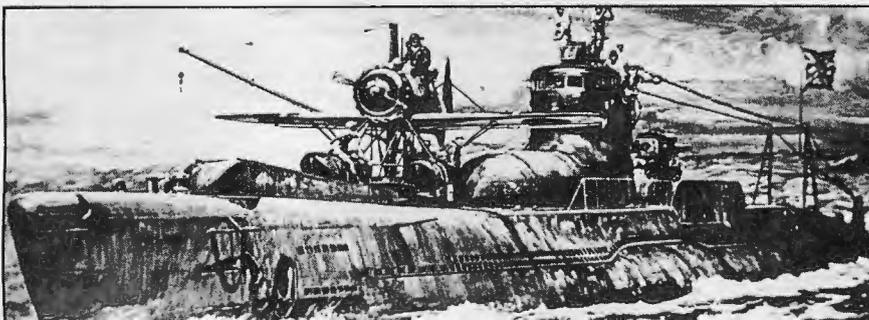
The first contact the I-25 had experienced with Americans was during the Doolittle raid on Yokosuka Naval Base on 18 April, where four 500-pound bombs dropping from Captain Ed McElroy's B-25 narrowly missed the I-25 and Warrant Officer Nobuo Fujita at Drydock 4. The next contact *after* the shelling of Ft. Stevens was when the I-25 stood off the southern Oregon coast and launched Fujita and his Glen amphibian bomber. Fujita flew inland approximately 50 miles and released two 154-pound incendiary bombs in the woods, on 9 September 1942. The I-25 and Fujita returned to repeat the act on 29 September, and *should* have become famous for being the only crew to ever bomb the continental United States.

But — although the verdant forests of southern Oregon may have looked like an explosive tinder box to those studying a map in Tokyo — the autumn rains had started and the foggy woods were unwilling to burn. Fire watchers had been scheduled to retire for the season within a few days of the attack. In addition, one of the two fire bombs evidently buried itself without exploding, and the one which did go off hit tail first and only partly discharged its hundreds of thermite pellets, a good percentage of which were later recovered by search teams from the FBI and Army.

Once located, the fires which had been started were confined to a small burst radius and easily extinguished by hand. When word of the bombing leaked out, some West Coast papers issued a war extra that "JAP WAR RAIDER DROPS FIRE BOMB IN OREGON" but it was printed past the sports section in East Coast papers. Fujita and his navigator lost their second chance to be famous when their Glen was spotted and the information filter center in Roseburg dispatched P-38 fighters the wrong way — to Bend (east) instead of to Bandon (west) — and Fujita completed his mission unchallenged.

Fujita and his navigator became lost on the way back to the I-25 on 29 September, but located her due to an oil slick . . . which would have also given her away to the P-38s if they had not been dispatched in the wrong direction.

The I-25 was finally sunk in the south Pacific in late August 1943, after having participated in several missions up and down the West Coast from Panama to Alaska.





Blimps (stands for Dirigible, Type B-Limp) escorted American convoys and warships in both oceans, and were most effective anti-submarine weapon developed as they could travel at convoy's speed, could hover on target and drop depth charges. Photo: U.S. Navy, courtesy M. Wayne Jensen, Tillamook County Pioneer Museum.

VOLUNTEER GUERRILLAS VS. VIGILANTE GORILLAS

This writer, having been raised among them, readily admits to an admiration for and a prejudice in favor of the strong and independent people of the Northwest's coastal mountains. We are the first to admit, however, that just because somebody lived there that did not make him a perfectly wonderful human being. In addition, there may have been a few living up a canyon here and there who were not wrapped too tight.

There were a lot of Japanese folks living in the Northwest when World War II broke out. They were then, and are now, good people. They typically followed various agricultural pursuits, and along the coast engaged in fishing enterprises. They worked hard and usually did well because of it. They typically kept to themselves, and I can't blame them as there is a rather pedestrian element in society who just can't stand to see others succeed where they have failed themselves. It was from this cave that usually crawled the Jap-haters.

Near Bay Ocean in Tillamook County, a handful of Japanese farmed oysters. They worked hard, did OK, but typically kept to themselves, only coming to town on business. One evening not long after Pearl Harbor, a group of bar flies was doing what they did best at a local tavern. Although best suited for just what they were doing, the beer-belly brigade aspired to greater things. The beer led to bravado, which led to a plan to win the war and become heroes beyond their wildest dreams by launching a counterattack on the Japanese oystermen. That these oyster farmers were as innocent of Pearl Harbor as the local German dairy farmers were of invading France made no difference — one cannot let such considerations hamper the quest for laurels otherwise unobtainable. Having imbibed sufficient courage, they retired to their homes for ordnance at least equal to an oyster knife and then rendezvoused among the driftwood and scrub-brush near the oystermen's shacks.

They crept stealthily and bravely to within point-blank range of these outnumbered innocents and opened fire. The shocked Japanese gave the only counter-battery they had — they lit a string of firecrackers and threw it out the window.

All hell broke loose among the ranks of the hop-and-malt heroes, who stumbled over the driftwood, each other and themselves in a panicked retreat. One would think that such a benighted lot would have been used to navigating in the dark, but in the hasty rout one of the beer-bellies ran into a log, fell over it, and broke his leg. History does not record this among casualties suffered in the war with Imperial Japan — it was no more than an insignificant casualty in the war with ignorance.

It is appropriate to ask if these loosely organized volunteers might not have been merely wide-eyed romantics, or reckless vigilantes, or cardboard heroes. Our research, indeed time and history itself, indicate they were none of the above. They were simply determined neighbors with a sense of community who in the spirit of patriotism enthusiastically banded together for their common defense — an entirely constitutional principle. They were the "militia" (i.e., every man capable of engaging in a concerted action against a common enemy) of which the Second Amendment speaks. They were the *people* (not the states) whose right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. And to that point in history this right had not been largely infringed, thus they were armed and capable.

If they had a vice, it might have been excessive enthusiasm. Within such rather loosely organized bands it probably took some effort to keep their actions "concerted," especially with the regulars. As it turned out there never was such a problem, however, and most of these groups eventually were incorporated into the more formal State Guard and Citizen's Defense Corps, or evolved into air raid-warning nets when the Japs never landed on the Oregon beaches. As early as March 1942 Col. Stewart P. Arnold mobilized his force of over 1,500 Tillamook Guerrillas one Sunday for the benefit of Col. Ralph P. Cowgill of the Oregon State Guard and Jerrold Owens, state coordinator of civilian defense. Riding in school busses and trucks to save gas, the various companies moved out "under sealed orders" to a remote spot in the rough, logged-off terrain of southern Tillamook County for a rendezvous, where they were addressed by Colonels Cowgill, Arnold and Owen on the need for coordination between the guerrillas, state guard, and citizens defense corps. "Discipline" in a formal military style might have chafed these roughnecks a bit, but "coordination" in the context of furthering a cooperative effort for the common defense presented no problem at all.

In attempting a hindsight assessment of the viability of these men as a military force, two considerations are important. First, they were intimately familiar with the terrain and environs. This was not their assigned area of operations — this was their home and these rain forests and valleys were their workplace. They knew every mud road, gully and hillside and to defend it they would have fought to the last breath of the last man.

Second, their fire efficiency — judged by extravagant military standards — would have been astounding. Any attempt to explain the concept of "area fire" would have been met with a blank stare — or the refusal: "Naw, we ain't going to set fire to our woods just to get a few Japs." Asserting that a military force need expend 300,000 rounds per enemy casualty — the ratio bandied about for the Vietnam experience —

FAR LEFT: Jap I-15-class subs, such as the I-25 which shelled Ft. Stevens, had 5.5-inch gun, carried a "Glen" amphibian bomber. Painting courtesy Gale R. Abrams, Historian, Ft. Stevens State Park.

LEFT: Japanese balloon bomb: extremely dangerous, many remain to be located. Photo: U.S. Army Air Force, courtesy Det. 5, 1369 AVS.

Continued on page 102

GERONIMOV!

SOF Trains at Soviet Higher Airborne Academy

Text & Photos by Jim Shortt

FIRST the KGB border guard looked down at my passport and scrutinized it slowly, then after a minute looked at me eyeball to eyeball, then back at the passport. He repeated this routine three or four times before finally stamping a sheet of my three-page visa and tearing it off.

I'm in! I said to myself. Friends, Soviet analysts, told me they doubted I'd be let into the Soviet Union given the period I had spent at Khost, Afghanistan, with NIFA (an Afghan resistance group) mujahideen. Others said, "You'll get in but don't count too hard on getting out."

Before long I was standing on a snow-covered platform at a Moscow railway station, sharing Jameson's Irish Whiskey from

my hip flask with railway workers and my official minders. The scene around us, with gently falling snow, was a straight take out of *Dr. Zhivago*, minus the background music. That night's journey was spent polishing off the liter bottle of Jameson's with my three companions. By three the next morning I was standing at the station in Ryazan sipping hot black tea from a glass; falling snow melted into the glass, cooling the drink.

A Volga staff car and UAZ jeep soon pulled up and members of the Soviet airborne forces, *Vozdushno Desantnaya Voyska* (VDV), got out. Last time I had seen a UAZ, members of NIFA were driving it around. A lieutenant colonel approached us; later I'd get to know him as Mikael Ivanovitch, deputy commander of the school I was visiting, an *Afghansi* (veteran) who had been seriously wounded serving with an airborne unit in Afghanistan. They were here to take me to the airborne forces academy.

Ryazan Higher Airborne Academy trains officers for the Soviet Union's air assault and airmobile units. Air assault and airborne units fall directly under authority of the Minister of Defense, and in time of war serve as a primary reserve for STAVKA — the Soviet high command.

It was only in 1946 that control of VDV transferred to the Ministry of Defense from the air force. In 1956 VDV was switched to ground forces and came under the control of a hero of World War II — General V.F. Margelov, who was a naval infantry officer. It was Margelov who was responsible for the introduction of the blue and white T-shirt, *Teinaishka*, which has become the trademark of Soviet paratroopers and other elite units. Between 1955 and 1964 the role of VDV was enhanced by the manufacture of first

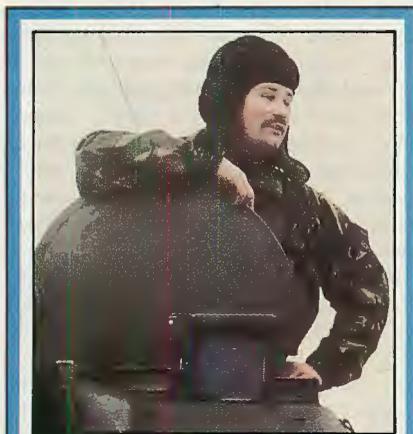
the AN-8 and later the AN-12 aircraft, giving the force a substantial lift capacity. At about the same time Soviet forces tackled the problem that has dogged every airborne assault force from Arnheim to their own costly operations on the Eastern Front — enemy armor.

In the 1950s VDV began to receive not only effective anti-armor measures, but armor of their own; this culminated in 1970 with development of the BMD *Boyevaya Maschina Desantnaya* (airborne combat vehicle). The BMD changed the VDV from light airborne infantry to

mechanized air assault troops with considerable firepower.

In 1967 the Soviet high command started training the VDV in an airmobile role, landing paratroopers with helicopters as opposed to parachuting them. In 1968 elements of the VDV were air-landed in Prague for the invasion of Czechoslovakia and again in 1979 at Kabul for intervention in Afghanistan. Soon commanders at district and group of forces level began demanding air assault assets to enhance their operational capabilities. This was accomplished with development of the operational maneuver group (OMG) concept in the late 1970s and greatly increased Soviet airmobile capabilities. The first airmobile assets were air-landed motorized infantry, but this proved a less than satisfactory solution, so air assault brigades independent of the VDV were created. Air assault brigades consist of one battalion of airborne troops and two battalions of mechanized infantry, according to senior VDV officers I interviewed at Ryazan. These independent air assault brigades existed initially at group of forces level but they have since been extended to district level, although not every district has one.

VDV consists of six airborne divisions,



SHORTT GOES SOVIET

Englishman Jim Shortt, a frequent contributor to *Soldier of Fortune*, writes most frequently about special operations forces in Europe. Recent articles for SOF have covered the Irish *fianogloch* ("Irish Rangers," January '89), the Austrian *Jagdkommando* ("Snake Eaters," September '87), 22 SAS ("Seven Years for Eleven Minutes," December '87), the Swedish Rangers ("Rebuffing the Bear," December '87) and the Soviets' new tank buster ("RPG-22," November '89).

according to Lieutenant General Al'bert Slyu'sar', commander of Ryazan Higher Airborne Academy (see chart). There were eight airborne divisions but the 105th Guards, stationed at Fergana, in Turkestan, were disbanded soon after they spearheaded the assault on Kabul in 1979. Likewise the 44th Guards, an NCO training division based at Jonava in the Baltic, has also been disbanded. Lieutenant General Slyu'sar' stated that if there are appropriate responses by the United States and NATO to Soviet arms reduction, then a further two divisions will be cut from the VDV before 1990. Observers feel these will probably be the 7th Guards and 98th Guards, though Lt. Gen. Slyu'sar' refused to identify the earmarked units.

Recently, then commander-in-chief of the VDV, Colonel-General Nikolai Kalinin, spoke about training and formation of Soviet paratroopers. Conscript paratroopers are trained within the airborne division or airmobile brigade to which they are assigned by the officers who graduate from Ryazan Higher Airborne Academy. Conscripts complete two years of full-time military service and then pass into the reserves. Those selected as paratroopers tend to be the cream of the conscript crop in terms of fitness and intellect. Training is more physically demanding than in a conventional unit. The relationship between officers and other ranks tends to be closer as with airborne units anywhere in the world. The diversity of skills found within the airborne unit is mirrored in training undertaken by officer cadets or *korsanti* at Ryazan.

Founded on the direct orders of Lenin, the academy was set up at Ryazan — 4½ hours travel by rail southeast of Moscow — on 29 August 1918; the first day of military instruction for officer cadets was 13 November 1918. Its first class of officers graduated on 15 March 1919 and immediately went to the front to fight in the civil war as red commanders. In March 1937, it became the Ryazan Infantry Commanders School. VDV came in to being in 1930, following combat operations using parachute deployed special troops against Basmachi Muslim rebels in central Asia in 1929. Until 1959 the airborne officers school had been at Alma Atisk in Kirgizstan, central Asia. It then moved to Ryazan and in 1964 the school was given the title Ryazan Higher Airborne Academy. It is a twice red bannered Komsomol (a red banner is roughly equivalent to a Presidential Unit Citation) and last year celebrated its 70th anniversary.

The present school commander, Lt. Gen. Slyu'sar', commanded the 103rd Guards Division in Afghanistan. On 15 November 1983 he was awarded the Gold Medal — Hero of the Soviet Union, equivalent to the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor or British Victoria Cross. Lieutenant General Slyu'sar' was born in the Amur region of Russia on 10 November 1939 and joined the Soviet army in 1958. He graduated from the Far East Higher All Arms Command School



Korsanti during winter warfare training. Note felt boots.

Division	Location	District	Orientation
7th Guards	Kaunas	Baltic	West TVD
76th Guards	Pskov	Leningrad	NW TVD
98th Guards	Kishenev	Odessa	SW TVD
103rd Guards	Vitebsk	Byelorussia	West TCD
104th Guards	Kirovabad	Transcaucasus	South TVD
106th Guards	Tula	Moscow	Central Reserve

Lt. Gen. Al'bert Evdokimovitch Slyu'sar', hero of the Soviet Union and commander of Ryazan Higher Airborne Academy.





Soviet paratrooper fires AKS-74 with PO-1 scope.

in 1962 and Frunze Military Academy in 1972. He took up his appointment at Ryazan in 1984, after returning from Afghanistan. Lieutenant General Slyu'sar' is one of the new breed of Soviet officers whose combat experience derives from modern combat rather than experiences in World War II. That experience has brought about vast modernization in equipment and attitude being witnessed in the Soviet armed forces.

Approximately 2,000 cadets attend the academy and are roughly evenly divided between the four-year course required to graduate. Intake is every July following graduation, at which successful cadets are

sworn in as Soviet army officers. Each year about 32,500 young men apply for 500 openings. Those that don't succeed are given back their military report papers and told to seek places at other academies. Usually the top 1,000 applicants who have failed to get a place will stay around for a further 2-3 months from July in hopes that one of the new korsanti will drop out and they will get his place. They live a rough life in the nearby Mischeza forest, surviving by doing odd jobs around town for money and food and turning up each day at the gates of Ryazan. Eventually the academy staff sends the new korsanti into the forest to sweep it of

hopefuls and make them return home.

The aim of the four-year course at Ryazan is to turn out a confident airborne officer competent as a practitioner/instructor in skills needed by the paratrooper to perform his duty. He serves six days a week dawn to dusk with Sundays free and a few hours given over each week for personal and family administration. Some 60 percent of korsanti are married by the time they graduate. Alcohol is strictly forbidden for cadets, and to be caught drinking on or off duty during the four years of attendance is to invite immediate dismissal. There is no real comparison between West Point or Sandhurst and Ryazan. Korsanti undergo a very thorough education starting with basic training, marching drill, skill-at-arms using the new 5.45mm weapons — the RPK-74, AKS-74, AKS-74u — followed by training with RPG launchers (RPG-7d and RPG-22).

Training then moves to the airborne fighting vehicle, BMD-1P with its 2A28 73mm smooth bore gun and newer BMD-2 with its 2A42 30mm automatic cannon. Cadets learn to operate in all crew positions — driver, radio operator and crew chief — as well as being one of four passengers who mount and dismount while the vehicle is speeding along. The school possesses excellent driver and gunnery simulation technology at classroom level. This is enhanced

VDV IN ACTION

Soviet airborne, though considered "elite" throughout their history, have had little combat jump experience, instead spending most of their time functioning as regular ground-bound infantry.

Though Soviet paratroopers have conducted numerous small-scale limited objective missions, including partisan support, bridge demolition and supply and rail interdiction, these types of missions are more accurately defined as commando/special forces operations rather than parachute operations. Soviet paras have been used on a large scale only twice, both operations occurring during World War II.

This is somewhat surprising since the Soviets, spurred on by Marshal Mikhail N. Tukhachevsky, were among the pioneers of airborne warfare. Already in the late 1920s Soviet volunteers were given rudimentary parachute training and some even saw action in Central Asia against Basmachi Muslim insurgents. By 1930 they had established a full airborne battalion and by 1938 there were 18,000 paratroopers in the Red Army. Ironically, they secretly aided the Germans in developing their airborne and armored troops. The Germans had numerous prohibitions placed on them by the Treaty of Versailles and likely

could not have developed the powerful combined arms force they did without Soviet help.

The Soviets even employed their paratroopers in combat as early as 1940 during the invasion of Bessarabia (eastern Rumania, but Soviet since 1945). They encountered so little opposition that it was more of a training exercise than a combat deployment.

It wasn't until Hitler's hounds were barking at the gates of Moscow in January 1942 that the first massed drop occurred. On 13 January the 201st Parachute Brigade landed west of Vyazma, followed by the 250th Airborne Regiment on 18 January, which landed west of Yukhnov. Smaller units were also landed at strategically important points behind enemy lines. All the Soviet paras landed in the area held by the German 4th Panzer Army. The drop was an early example of the hammer and anvil operations used to good effect in Vietnam. The paratroopers were the anvil, while the hammer consisted of a broad front offensive designed to send the Germans reeling into the dug-in paras, where they would subsequently be destroyed. But it didn't work that way.

The flaw in the plan was that the hammer wasn't able to pound through the German lines and though they bent, the Germans didn't break. The result was

that the paras, along with the few units that did break through and exploit, ended up trapped behind German lines. By June 1942 all these pockets of trapped Soviets were effectively eliminated.

In the time between this operation and their next employment, most Soviet airborne units were given "Guard" designations and used as infantry. Nine such divisions saw action in and around Stalingrad. Continuing in their infantry role, airborne units later participated in re-taking Kharkov as well as repulsing the German's ill-conceived Kursk offensive.

Their next and last large scale airborne deployment came when the Soviets forced the Dnieper River. This natural defense line proved a tough nut to crack even for the Soviet juggernaut. Breaking a defensive line focused on a river is a natural use for paratroopers and STAVKA (the Soviet high command) again saw an opportunity to deal the Germans a serious blow.

The plan was for three airborne brigades to land at night behind the Germans in the area around and northwest of the Ukrainian city of Kanev. They were to be supported by long-range artillery and an offensive push from the Bukrin bridgehead, several miles to the north. Reality differed so radically from this "plan" that a comparison is purely academic. Soviet units did not arrive in

by hands-on training exercises in the nearby Oka River training area, where dedicated BMD assault courses and combat training ranges exist. I was allowed to take the commander's position in a BMD-1P while it was put through its paces on the vehicle assault course and was greatly impressed with its speed and maneuverability. When cadets are eventually placed as junior lieutenants within airborne units they will teach all these skills to their subordinates.

Korsanti graduate from Ryazan with a university-level degree in military engineering. But not all instructors at the academy are military officers. The senior instructor in "Strength of Materials" faculty, concerned with the physics of heavy drop parachuting of vehicles and equipment, is a woman — Olga Viktoovna Drugova. In the same faculty the academy has two classrooms dedicated to computer sciences where cadets are schooled in basics of micro-computer use and computer programming. The academy has its own mainframe computer for collation and storage of student training records. Details of all student intakes as well as graduates and their achievement records are maintained on the mainframe.

At the rear of the academy is an extensive parachute training area. Soviet military personnel are paid parachute increment per jump rather than a flat rate increment like their British and American counterparts. Unlike their NATO counterparts every Soviet paratrooper has to pack his or her

their staging areas on time, drop aircraft did not have sufficient fuel to fly in subsequent waves, intelligence on German unit positions was so poor as to be criminal. Only 196 out of a planned 500 sorties were carried out, resulting in just under 4,600 troops being dropped. The entire operation was a fiasco on a grand scale and none of the Soviet units which jumped on 24 September 1943 were able to achieve their objectives.

The German communique on 28 September reads: "Soviet battle groups, most of which landed at night, either wiped out, thrown back or pressed together in narrow areas by prompt counterattacks." Some of the Soviets who survived became partisans and re-joined the Soviet army when the area was taken in 1944.

After Kanev Soviet paratroopers were not again used on a large scale. They did participate in commando operations conducted in Manchuria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan. Tactically speaking they're an elite and formidable foe, that is beyond doubt; on a large scale, however, Soviet planning botches even the best laid plans and takes the edge off the best trained men.

— Tom Slizewski



Soviet helicopters mounted on pylons serve as targets for RPG gunners. Both carry NATO markings and only non-explosive warheads are used.

own parachute — which are variants on the drone assisted D-5. Facilities at Ryazan would send parachute jump instructors at RAF Brize Norton and Fort Benning into raptures. Parachute training at Ryazan and at LZs (landing zones) in the Oka River training area exemplify professionalism of the highest standard. In fact everything at the academy was run to an extremely high standard with military professionalism always in evidence.

Great emphasis is placed on fitness and motivation training. Physical education is headed by Lt. Col. Vladimir Panteleev, a specialist in *Rokupashni-Boi* — close-quarter battle method of the Soviet army. While the majority of NATO countries have minimized or abolished training in unarmed combat and hand-to-hand fighting, there still remains heavy interest in the Soviet forces in these skills, to the extent that unit, district, and national championships are held. In my discussions with instructors the emphasis from the Soviet side, quite correctly, was that men, not machines, win battles — so the foundation for combat training is the fighting man enhanced by technology, not subject to it. The Afghanistan experience confirmed this viewpoint. Prior to Afghanistan (and for most of the war), Soviet thinking relied on equipment rather than men.

I was able to speak to many Afghan veterans within the academy, both staff and korsanti. Sergei Abramov served in Afghanistan with a VDV unit. Quiet and well spoken, he is critical of the tactics originally used. "We stayed in armored vehicles too much, when we should have operated the same as the caravan hunters (Spetsnaz or VDV). We needed to be on the ground like the mujahideen, rather than as targets in our vehicles. There was just too much use of armored vehicles in Afghanistan and not enough foot work."

It is an opinion voiced by other Afghan veterans and one that is being absorbed into current training practices. I questioned Captain Gennady Arsenyevich Valsilyev about Afghan veterans like Sergei, who were under his command. I was particularly interested in whether any of the stress related behavior associated with Vietnam veterans appeared.

"On the contrary," he said, "the Afghan veterans are well-motivated and a great

assistance to me in training. They understand the need for realistic combat training and the need to pay attention to details. Off their own backs they will tell fellow students, non-veterans, to pull up their socks. Veterans are more mature than non-veterans, not surprising given what they have been through."

In Moscow I met other veterans from Afghanistan from artillery and motor rifle units as well as VDV. Most of these appeared to have problems associated with their service in Afghanistan that are identical to those experienced by Vietnam vets in the United States. Those veterans who came from airborne and elite units and those still serving were far better adjusted. I only heard one member of the VDV express the opinion that the Soviet Union was wrong to have gone in to Afghanistan — "an internal family feud," he said. Most preferred Mikhail Gorbachev's view that history will be the judge. But there is no doubting the impact that Afghanistan has had on the Soviet armed forces, especially elite units such

Continued on page 90

Suspended agony, Soviet style. Cadets practice parachute maneuvering and manipulation techniques on suspended canopy simulator.



TIMBER-SHEPHERD THE LRRP DOG

South Carolina Firm Trains Dogs For Defense

by Tony Herbert

GERMAN Shepherds, Dobermans, Rottweilers, Mastiffs and Great Danes: until recently, I thought I knew them all. But now there's a new breed out there known as the Timbershepherd® — and it's the Mercedes-Benz of executive protection dogs. The development of this premium new breed was a long term, expensive project.

The Timbershepherd® required more than 10 calendar years and five full generations of selective breeding to develop, a painstaking process which was completed under the most rigid of scientifically controlled conditions. The Timbershepherd® should not be confused in any way with generic wolf-dog crosses presently on the market, whose reputation for unreliable behavior makes them useless in the professional working-dog/protection-dog field. To the best of my knowledge, the Timbershepherd® is the only protection/working dog that has a lifetime guarantee covering physical and temperament disorders resulting from genetic defects. It's that superior!

The Timbershepherd® is an animal unique from a number of important standpoints. While in appearance they look like large German Shepherds, the "command presence" of

these majestic, confident animals is awesome. The males range in size from 100 to 125 pounds and females from 90 to 100 pounds. Males stand from 26 to 31 inches at the shoulder and females from 24 to 28 inches. Their medium outer coats are smooth, with an

K-9 CADRE

Tony Herbert, one of America's most decorated and controversial soldiers and author of the book *Soldier*, is already well-known to SOF readers. His long service in the Army included combat in Korea, Vietnam and the Dominican Republic. In rising through the ranks from private to lieutenant colonel, Herbert was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Turkish *Osminieh* (equivalent to our Medal of Honor), in addition to numerous Bronze and Silver Stars, purple hearts and the Soldier's Medal. In Vietnam, Herbert served as IG and later as battalion commander in the 173rd Airborne Brigade. There are probably few men as qualified as Herbert to evaluate a soldier, whether he wear cammies or fur.

underlying inner coat which is readily shed-able to permit adaptation to virtually all climates and seasons. Their senses are more acute than those found in domestic breeds, which makes them more aware of their surroundings and more sensitive to their master's needs than conventional dogs. Their temperaments are even and controlled, and when properly socialized, these animals are both gentle and protective of their master as well as their family, including the very youngest of children.

An obvious question is, "Why would anyone want to breed a dog to a wolf?" Also, why the North American Gray Timberwolf instead of another breed such as the Red Wolf, Arctic Wolf or possibly the Maned Wolf? The answer is, in short, because of the size, stamina and intelligence of the North American Gray Timberwolf.

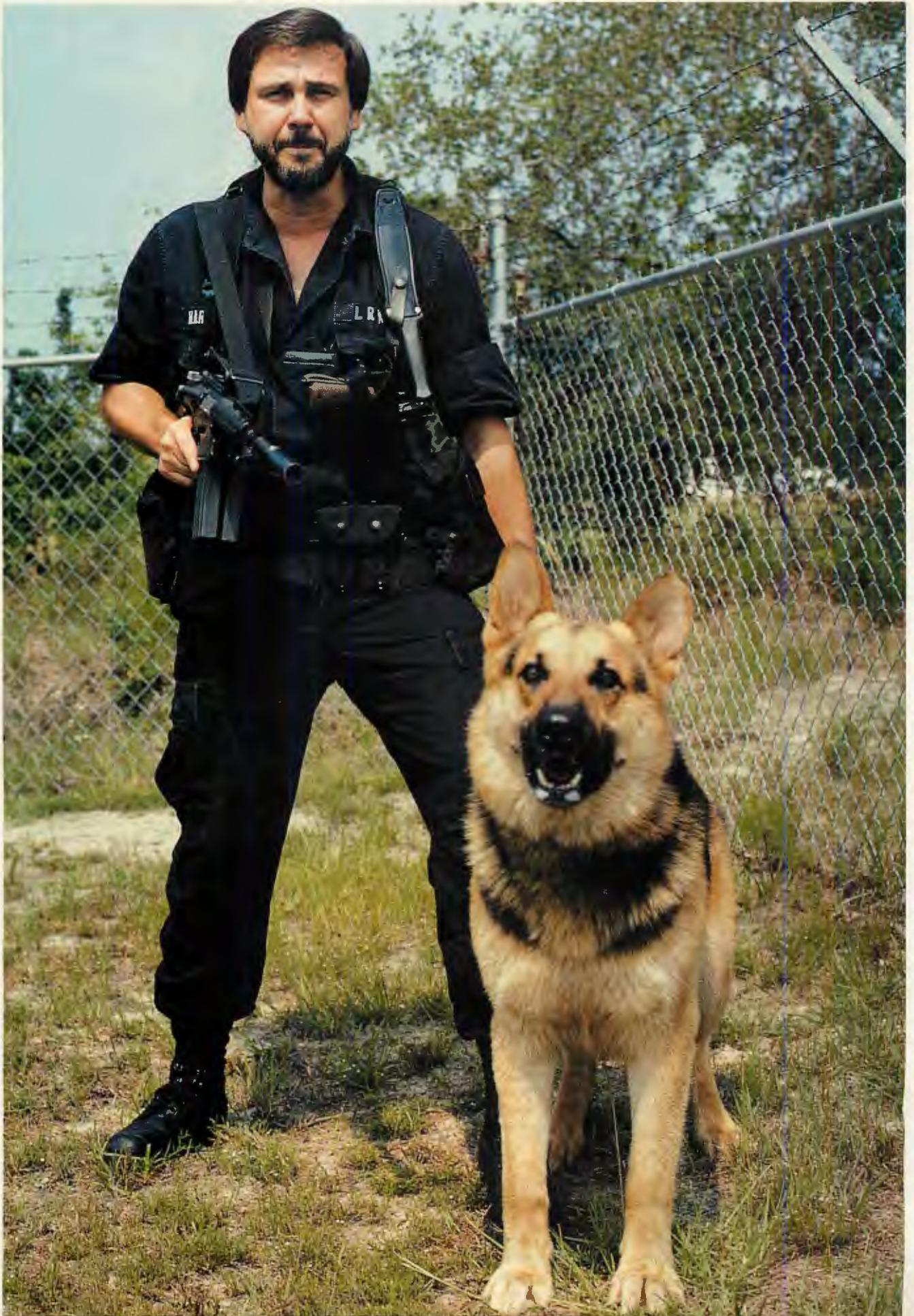
The next question is, "Why the German-import shepherd instead of one of our own more prevalent domestically bred German Shepherds?" The answer is just as simple. The German-import shepherd is an animal just as special among shepherds as the North American Gray Timberwolf is among wolves. In Germany, all breeding of shepherds is done under the very strict and rigid supervision of "Federal Breeding Wardens." Inbreeding remains virtually impossible, and weaker breedings are precluded. Registrations are meticulously exact, bloodlines are consistent, and all animals are certified free of hip dysplasia.

Yet, even considering the pluses of both the North American Gray Timberwolf and the German-import shepherd lineage, what ultimately makes the Timbershepherd® the premium K-9 is the stringent, scientifically controlled methods used by a very competent and honorable animal lover who is totally dedicated to producing optimum working/protection dogs.

Known simply as "Harrison," this breeder/trainer created the Timbershepherd® only after a decade of scientific experimentation. His trial and error methodology reminds one of young Tom Edison's efforts to create the incandescent light bulb. Both worked long and hard, encountering numerous setbacks and frustrations, until each knew more about what would *not* work than anyone else in their fields. Like Edison, Harrison eventually discovered the precise combination which produced the optimum. Unlike other wolf/dog breeders, Harrison didn't just cross a dog with a wolf and sell the offspring — he experimented with 16 different types of wolf bloodlines unrelated to each other, with each bloodline ideally suited for different tasks.

Harrison began selling his Timbershepherd® in 1975. The feedback from owners

Harrison, president of LRRP and developer of the Timbershepherd®, with "Honcho," friend and demonstration dog for many years. Photo: Tony Herbert





ABOVE: A well-trained working dog, as opposed to a junk-yard dog, will attack only on command. Photo: courtesy LRRP Security Services.

since then has been nothing short of phenomenal. This new breed's normal lifespan is approximately 15 years, which is three to five years longer than domestic shepherds, and the Timbershepherd® is free of the crippling hip dysplasia and other genetic disorders associated with such breeds. This means an average working lifespan some 35 percent longer than other more conventional protection/working dogs, which represents a far greater return on capital invested for an expensive working dog. Not merely elite soldiers, these animals make a loyal and courageous family protector. They have minimal genetic defects, and are virtually unequaled in performance by any other breed. As mentioned earlier, all Timbershepherds® have a lifetime replacement guarantee for any genetic disorders or temperament problems.

Training

It is vital that each pup receive a great deal of "human" socialization and bonding. Such animals must be "raised" with people if they are to be responsive and loyal. Harrison begins extensive socialization and bonding when pups reach three weeks of age. Several staff members are assigned to "play" with the pups on a daily basis. During "play" each animal is studied for those qualities which would make him most suitable for the type of specialized training to follow, i.e., protection dog training, scout dog training, etc. Simple daily tests are administered and results are recorded for



And will promptly disengage the target upon command. This recallability makes a well-trained and predictable dog an optimum tool for applying minimum force. Photo: Tony Herbert

future daily comparisons. A modified version of the seeing eye dog test is used at four, six and eight weeks of age to determine suitability for placement by type, i.e. executive protection, police patrol, narcotics or explosive detection, or family friend. Socialization and testing continues until each pup reaches 10 weeks of age, at which

time they are generally shipped via air freight express to buyers worldwide.

All animals trained by Harrison and his LRRP professionals are trained solely by use of positive reinforcement. LRRP professionals are *compassionate* trainers, not merely because they love dogs, but because it brings the best results. A dog trained to

ABOUT LRRP

LRRP's K-9 Services, Inc., developer of the Timbershepherd®, has invested some \$1 million and 15 years in the R&D of this highly specialized animal. They are its sole breeder. All LRRP trainers are DoD certified; all Timbershepherds® come with a lifetime replacement guarantee against any genetic or temperament disorders.

Harrison, LRRP's owner and president, has been recognized as "one of the nation's most renowned dog trainers" by the *Atlanta Journal* and *Atlanta Constitution*, and his clientele include the rich and famous, show business and music personalities, law-enforcement agencies, anti-terrorist units, friendly foreign governments, and elite U.S. government agencies — those who can afford, or *must have*, the best.

If you want a 24-hour working partner for the next 15 years at less than the cost of a compact car, contact LRRP directly:

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Timbershepherd® on the attack, under gunfire. Photo: Tony Herbert

react to fear or pain is likely to change loyalties in response to greater fear or pain, but superior animals, trained to react to love, are loyal to the last breath. The properly socialized animal in this program is taught to work for praise and not from fear of pain. This technique has been established as a proven method for producing crisp, controlled and predictable working animals. The training resources at LRRP are extensive and most credible. LRRP is constantly refining its training programs, and all trainers are DoD military working dog certified.

LRRP's training program is divided into several phases. These carefully designed packages produce a logical progression of skills:

OBEDIENCE: (included in all training phases) includes on- and off-leash obedience. Dog is taught to respond to the following commands, with both verbal and silent hand signals, "come," "heel," "sit," "down," and "stay."

AGGRESSION DOG: comprises *controlled* aggression, designed to produce a dog that is trained to attack only on command by the handler, while attended. Unattended, the dog is trained to protect the confines of his or her environment such as a vehicle, home or office.

AGGRESSION LEVEL I: a personal protection package, controlled aggression exercises include;

- Straight attack with recall (bite and hold with "out" or release command; off-leash).

- Running attack (with aggressor running away, dog is taught to bite and hold until called "out" by handler; off-leash).

- False run (off-leash; although profusely agitated by assailant, dog stays in place at handler's side; assailant may run away, but dog stays in place unless given attack command).

AGGRESSION LEVEL II: an executive protection package, controlled aggression exercises include:

sion exercises include:

- Straight attack with recall, running attack, false run.

- Attack under gunfire (dog is taught to bite and hold, even in the face of gunfire, off-leash).

AGGRESSION LEVEL III: a professional protection package, controlled aggression exercises include:

- Straight attack with recall, running attack, false run, attack under gunfire and;

- Felony search (off-leash; dog can be positioned near prisoner; handler can conduct pat-down search for weapons, contraband, etc.; if prisoner makes threatening or escape moves, dog will attack, without command, to protect handler).

- Prisoner escort (off-leash; dog is taught to escort prisoner to holding area, waiting vehicle, etc.; dog will bite and hold if escape attempt is made).



A Timbershepherd® can be both a soldier and a friend of the family. Photo: Wm. Bell, courtesy LRRP Security Services

- Stand-off (off-leash after attack command, dog may be called "out" and returns to handler, prior to getting the bite, even though assailant may be running away).

SCOUT DOG: (with building search; off-leash using airborne scent dog detects, locates and controls the human intruder in home, unoccupied building, office or open areas).

TRACKING DOG: (on-leash). The dog uses ground scent from a known starting point to track escaping adversaries, wandering seniles and/or lost children (no attack).

PATROL DOG: Combination of all of the above skills.

DETECTION DOG: LRRP has excellent resources for training detector dogs. Any of the previously mentioned dogs can be trained in detecting either narcotics or explosive odors. LRRP specializes in training explosive detection dogs for use worldwide in sophisticated security and anti-terrorist operations.

Knowing all this, the question then becomes, "Why a Timbershepherd® in place of a gun or a personal bodyguard?" There are many good reasons. Dogs are generally legal to own anywhere. Even a child can handle a dog without accidentally killing himself. A dog can alert one early enough to *avoid* many confrontations, as opposed to having to settle one with the use of a firearm. A well-trained dog is an excellent psychological and physical deterrent, as bad guys prefer to go where there is no dog. Like a Cruise missile, a properly trained dog can be recalled. A dog can distinguish between friend or foe, eliminating accidental killings, and offers 24 hour security and companionship.

Unlike a bodyguard, dogs will in fact willingly lay down their lives for their keepers. They'll operate outside in all types of weather conditions, without complaint.

But even considering all these pluses, the Timbershepherd® is not for everyone. They are *not* junkyard animals to be put outside, or inside a fence or building to be neglected. LRRP will not sell animals for such duties, regardless of price offered. In fact, Harrison checks out potential customers a lot more carefully than most potential buyers check out his dogs.

Timbershepherds®, properly trained, are natural protectors entirely appropriate to a family setting. Unless commanded to be otherwise, they are gentle. They are tolerant and protective of children. Quality does not come cheap. The price ranges from \$1,500 for a pup, and trained dogs start at \$6,500 (this includes a two-day comprehensive handler's training course at LRRP's facilities for all trained dogs sold). Though not cheap, this price is most cost effective considering the many years of service and loyal companionship one will receive with ownership of such an animal.

Did I think enough of the Timbershepherd® which Harrison breeds and trains at LRRP to put out what it takes to get one for myself? You bet I did — a fully trained executive protection model named Genesis. ✕

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BOMBING BENGHAZI

Continued from page 28

United States and Great Britain. One day after the raid, two British and one American hostage were executed in cold blood in West Beirut. According to North: "The Libyan military attache in Damascus, Major Halifa, was personally responsible for the kidnapping and handling of the three hostages murdered in West Beirut on April 16." North also said that it was Halifa who actually killed the three men.

The three hostages were being held by a Hezbollah splinter group controlled and financed by Khadafi. A note found with the bodies of the slain men indicated that they had been killed in retaliation for the U.S.

aid on Libya. Initially it was believed that three men were British citizens: Leigh Douglas, a lecturer at the American University in Beirut, Philip Padfield, director of a private language school in West Beirut, and freelance journalist Alec Collett. Later, it was learned that the body believed to be Collett's was in reality the remains of American writer Peter Kilburn, a 60-year-old librarian at the American University.

According to intelligence reports, Maj. Halifa received direct instructions from the Libyan intelligence headquarters in Tripoli to travel to Beirut and see to it that the three hostages were killed. Halifa made appropriate arrangements with Syrian authorities and traveled to Beirut in a two-car convoy, arriving three hours after his departure. The first car, a British-made Land-Rover, was loaded with Syrian security personnel and facilitated the movement of the Libyan military attache through Syrian-controlled territory, after which it returned to Damascus. The second car, also a Land-Rover, was equipped with radio telephones and protected by Libyan security guards, who took Maj. Halifa, dressed in civvies, to his destination in West Beirut.

After meeting with the Hezbollah leaders, it was agreed that the executions would take place that evening on a dark, narrow, deserted street in the Shi'ite section, Chiyah e-Salum, of West Beirut. In order to confirm the deed to his superiors, Halifa brought a camera to the execution site so that pictures could be taken of the actual murders. After the three men were killed, their bodies were dumped on a pile of garbage and Maj. Halifa traveled to offices rented by the Libyans in West Beirut to make certain that local reporters were notified of the location of the bodies. The following morning, the energetic young Libyan military attache was on his way back to Damascus, and two days later he left Syria for Libya.

The murder of Peter Kilburn was particularly painful for North, since he had come very close to securing the release of the quiet American University staff librarian. North and other U.S. officials hoped to win Kilburn's freedom with a multi-million-dollar ransom payment made with chemically treated bills that would disintegrate within

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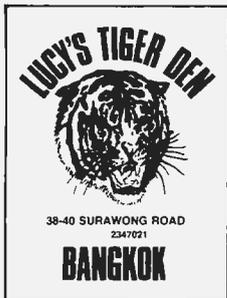


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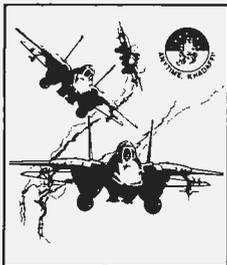
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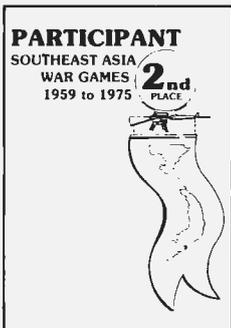
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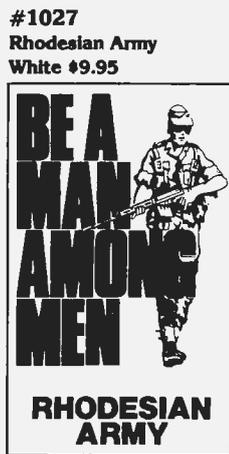
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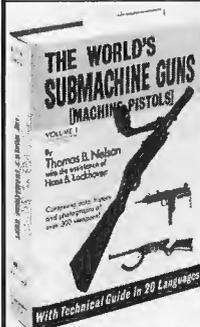
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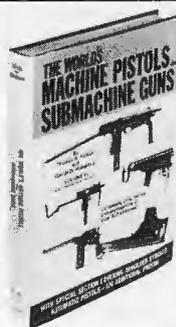


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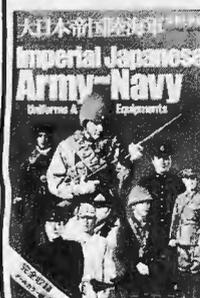


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approximately 72 hours, thereby denying the kidnappers any reward for their efforts. Before being sold to the Libyans, Kilburn had been held by a band of brigands whose only interest was money, not politics.

The killings in Beirut were not the only act of revenge. In the weeks that followed, one American diplomat was shot in Aden, South Yemen, and another in Khartoum, the capital of the Sudan. In the first two months following the raid, the United States experienced 11 terrorist attacks that plausibly could be linked to the action against Libya. ✕

I WAS THERE

Continued from page 16

rudimentary depth gauges, it was determined that the holes didn't go all the way through. Much amusement followed this discovery, and as I carefully wiped the oozing blood away I began to feel that no one would express the proper sympathy for me in my present condition.

Then to my relief I saw Richard Davis coming up to me with a look of sincere concern etched in his face. Here at last was the proper reaction to the plight of a suffering human being. "We need to re-take the scene from the point that you fell to the ground," he said.

Imagine my enthusiasm at the prospect of "Dead Eye Dick" Solheim taking another fling at hitting my ballistic pad from 6 feet. After an intensive conversation which ended with the comment, "Just watch your front sight, dammit," the scene was refilmed and now will no doubt hold a place of honor in the annals of cinematic history.

You can get the video mentioned in this story, "Second Chance Vs. Magnum Force," by writing *Second Chance*, Dept. SOF, PO Box 578, Central Lake, MI 49622; phone 1-800-253-7090. It's two hours long and costs \$25 including postage. ✕

MOZAMBIQUE

Continued from page 39

our group, Renamo soldiers and all, participated in a drumming and dancing party. We were freely given food and directions. No one was starving, no one ran into the bush at our approach. This is not the behavior of a people that has been raped, mutilated and murdered.

There was plenty of food while we were there, and Renamo does have a collection system. They run food storage centers called "controls" to which people bring their surplus. We stayed at several controls. The amount brought was left to the discretion of the farmer, and the people seemed to

come willingly. In a country with no refrigeration, little storage, and no outlets in which to sell, their surplus is just that — extra — and they might as well donate it. In addition, as we walked through cultivated areas, the soldiers never took food from the fields. If we wanted corn or fruit, they always asked the owner of the fields for permission. Renamo soldiers are severely punished for stealing even an ear of corn. One day we walked 12 hours with no food — no breakfast, no lunch, no snack, no nothing. I was casting covetous glances at every passing papaya. We took nothing.

Renamo does, as Gersony reports, use civilian porters. The only way to transport anything is to carry it, usually on your head. There are very few paths wide enough to allow a Land-Rover; besides, I didn't see any Land-Rovers. Renamo supposedly has some functional motorcycles, but I never saw those either. Almost everything is transported by foot. All of the soldiers carry things, and I can easily believe that they get civilians to carry things as well. However, there was no indication that they starved or beat their porters to death, as Gersony alleges. On three occasions our party took a civilian along, twice to show the way, and once to carry a pack. These civilians, however, only stayed with us for a few miles, and then went back.

Finally, Gersony's report on the treatment of women is questionable. He says, "Another function of the young girls and adult women is to provide sex to the com-

batants. From refugee reports it appears that these women are required to submit to sexual demands, in effect to be raped, on a frequent and sustained basis." This implies that Renamo sanctions and institutionalizes rape, which given their dependence on the support of the population, and the good relations I observed between civilians and the soldiers, is improbable.

In 1986 SOF Contributing Editor Robert MacKenzie was in Zambezia Province, escorting some missionaries out of Mozambique, and he witnessed Renamo prosecution of a rape case. A senior military commander had raped a girl, and her parents had complained to Renamo. The commander was dragged before the troops, demoted, and beaten. Then he was sent to the girl's village where he was also beaten. He re-entered Renamo stripped of all rank. If Renamo sanctioned rape, the aggrieved parents would hardly have gone to them to administer justice for the crime.

Gersony's report is an official document, and has been widely quoted. It has effectively prohibited an even-handed political contact with Renamo. What statesman would wish to deal with the modern equivalent of Attila the Hun? The Gersony report has closed a lot of doors, and closed a lot of minds. In addition, the Gersony report stands alone and conquers public opinion by default. Renamo is its own worst enemy in the area of public relations. They remain isolated in the bush, and produce no authoritative external newsletter. Their foreign

representatives are remote, scattered and in disarray. Renamo also seems to attract a lunatic fringe of "guerrilla war groupies" who volunteer to espouse their cause, to the infinite detriment of Renamo's credibility.

I asked President Dhlakama about the inadequacies in his foreign representation and he acknowledged a serious problem. He said that "the external representation is weak. They have communication problems among themselves and there is weak communication between Renamo and them. Several have been more interested in their own personal intrigues than in Renamo." He agreed that Renamo must address this problem.

In terms of relations with the United States government, things may be improving albeit subtly. Chester Crocker is no longer Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. His replacement, Herman Cohen, is a career diplomat with extensive African experience. I interviewed him on 7 June 1989 and asked whether State Department policy with regard to Renamo had changed. He answered that it had not. He said that the United States has a normal relationship with Chissano's government and doesn't want to have a relationship with Renamo. He said that the Mozambican government had been very helpful to the United States in a regional context, specifically in preventing cross-border violence with South Africa, in assisting the United States in dealing with the Angolan government, and in helping to ease tensions between South Africa and the rest

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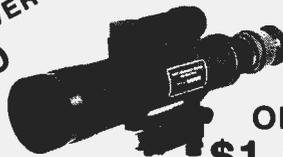
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of the Front-line states. He asserted that Chissano was indeed moving away from his earlier Stalinist-type policies, (Mr. Cohen called them "Stalinist"), but allowed that he had a long way to go. He added, however, that "we look toward a political solution." He seemed aware that, even with continued assistance, Chissano cannot expect to attain a military victory.

I asked him what role he saw for the State Department, if any, in resolving the conflict in Mozambique. He answered that the State Department would make itself available as a negotiator, if all sides desired it. He suggested that in a regional context the State Department could talk with the Soviets, the South Africans and the Zimbabweans. In his confirmation hearings Mr. Cohen said that he would talk to anybody if it would do some good, and he reiterated this to me. He said, "Yes, we would talk to Dhlakama if it would be useful."

A change seems to be in the air. Mr. Cohen said that even Chissano is using the term "bandits" less often. Mugabe has said that he wouldn't stand in the way of Renamo-Frelimo talks. The State Department has actually, although unofficially, recognized that Renamo exists. President Dhlakama has said that he will come to the peace table with no pre-conditions, just that the talks be serious and fair. These are major shifts. It would be wonderful if the State Department would use its skills in quiet diplomacy and Byzantine negotiations to bring peace to Mozambique. The country needs peace. The only way to do that is to talk to Renamo, talk honestly and fairly. President Dhlakama is too strong to allow himself to be sold out.

Whatever you think of Renamo, they are there, 25,000 strong, self-sufficient and committed. Despite all of the foreign assistance pouring in to Chissano, he is unable to vanquish them and they are prepared to fight on for their goals. Continued chaos in Mozambique is not in anyone's interest, and one would hope that Chissano would be willing to relinquish his monopoly on power in order to bring peace to his war-ravaged people. Surely the time has come to give Renamo a chance to state their case. They want elections. We advocate elections for everyone else, why not for Mozambicans? In America we espouse the right of free speech and for a fair hearing. How about for Renamo too? ✕

SOVIET AIRBORNE

Continued from page 81

as the VDV. Equipment and training have benefited, the VDV served bravely in Afghanistan, and in their view did their international duty to the best of their ability.

One senior colonel predicted the day when U.S., Soviet and British paratroopers would all meet on the battlefield, not as enemies but as allies. The common enemy: Islamic fundamentalism.

"We gathered much intelligence in Af-



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ghanistan and besides guerrillas there were extreme fundamentalists," the colonel said. "There was even a mercenary fundamentalist brigade of Hezb-i-Islami working with Iranians. It had Islamic fanatics from North Africa, Yemen, Saudi anti-royalists, Pakistanis, Iranians and even Moro guerrillas from the Philippines." (This is substantially correct according to independent Western defense journals). "These people will not stop after Afghanistan. No, you in the West should read what they are saying; they are coming to the gates of Moscow and Washington — the great Satans — on their Jihad. The conflict soon will not be East-West but North-South," the colonel concluded.

In the evenings we all retired to the *banya*, the traditional Russian version of the sauna, complete with birch twigs. You cannot leave, I was told by a grinning companion, until 21 drops of sweat fall from the end of your nose. "When boys came back from Afghanistan, first thing we would do is get them straight in here to clean the country out of their system," an officer told me. After the *banya*, a cold pool plunge is followed by a battering from a pressure hose.

Wrapped in towel-sheets we sat down to eat salmon, pancakes and sour cream, caviar, East German beer, orange juice and Siberian vodka. As a whiskey drinker I sipped the vodka with all the passion an Irishman could muster. It tasted like battery acid and had the bouquet of Skid Row socks; I fought back the contortions that threatened to take over my face when the lieutenant colonel beside me asked why I didn't throw it down my throat like a Russian: "That way you can't taste or smell it."

At the close of one such session, the deputy commander of the school presented me with my blue airborne beret and blue and white *Telnaishka* shirt. I had spent many days at the school with the *Rokupashni* Boi specialists, in the parachute training area and at the nearby *Oka* River training area with the *BMDs* and the full range of Soviet personnel and platoon weapons. On one such day I waited in vain for the cloud cover to lift so that I could board an *AN-12* and jump with the *D-5* parachute, thereby earning my Russian wings. It had taken a lot of pleading with Lt. Gen. *Slyu'sar* to get him to allow me to become the first Westerner to win his Soviet wings and now the Russian weather turned against me.

Despite the failure the general gave me an open invitation to return to *Ryazan* and undertake their course. "We will teach you to jump into trees, on top of buildings, into the water — everything," he said with a smile. "Stay for six months and we'll even make you a Soviet officer." ❌

SEMPER FIDO

Continued from page 67

dogs, but this request must be approved by representatives from the center after inspection of the unit. There are dogs in service



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All pups selected for training are inoculated at eight months against common canine diseases. Canine candidates begin their military education at the age of one year. Course length is 60 days and involves a schedule of 15 minutes of training followed by 10 minutes of rest.

Would-be handlers must complete a one-week selection phase with the successful candidates going on to a 16-week training course. Unlike in the United States, a soldier can remain in the dog program as a handler as long as he desires. They normally remain with their dogs for six to eight years.

A handler and his dog are returned to the center once a year for retraining, designed to upgrade their capabilities and provide them with any new techniques that have emerged during the time they have been in the field.

Although it was difficult to select the most outstanding example of training displayed during the demonstrations by the cadre, the attack sequence was guaranteed to get your attention. The sight of a 125-pound Doberman taking off from a dead run and launching himself airborne to clamp his teeth on the padded arm of an instructor was hard to ignore.

One thing that really struck home was the fact that the Thai trainers, unlike their U.S. counterparts, do not dress in a fully padded, protective suit, but instead use only a single protective shield covering one arm. I had several uncomfortable moments watching a black-and-tan, four-footed killing machine hurtling toward a 5-foot-2-inch Thai who was wearing just a T-shirt, a pair of shorts, and a sleeve protector. Had the Doberman suddenly changed his mind and decided to have an *hors d'oeuvre* of Thai *cojones*, the Thai soldier would have qualified for the Vienna Boys Choir immediately.

After the attack demo an instructor trotted out, carrying a Colt .45. He moved across the parade ground and hid the weapon in a clump of thick brush some 200 meters away. A German Shepherd was released shortly thereafter and wasted no time in sticking his nose to the ground, heading in the general direction taken by the instructor. He disappeared into the bush and in minutes emerged wagging his tail with the .45 securely clutched in his teeth.

At our applause the shepherd increased his rate of tail-wag and sat down next to his handler, who petted him and reached for the pistol. No! Private Dog decided the .45 was his and *no one* was going to get it.

The handler, watching the dog with one eye and the deputy commander with the other, moved quickly after his charge who'd wagged and scampered several paces away

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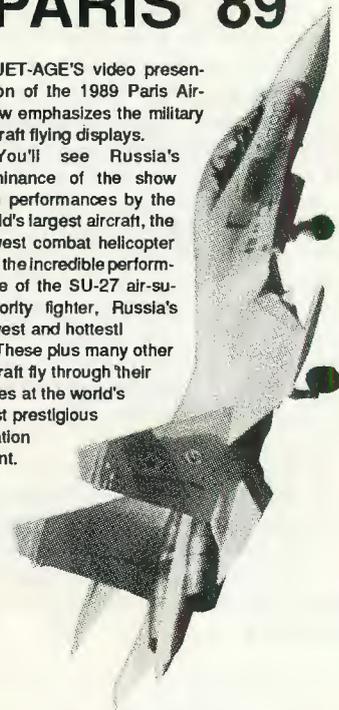
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to take a seat not far from us. Again, no success. By now, even Col. Nantawan was smiling and the chase had shed all attempts at military discipline and had turned into a foot race that ended when the handler caught the pistol-packer next to a jeep and wrestled away the prize.

An intermission show featuring all breeds included such feats as jumping through flaming hoops, dancing on hind legs, rolling over, turning flips and demonstrating how high each candidate could leap. An instructor took pains to tell us that this phase of the demonstration wasn't a part of the regular program of instruction.

Bob Brown was intent on getting a cover shot for SOF, and asked one of the handlers to bring over an attack shepherd. Brown lay down on the ground and focused on the dog while an assistant instructor with a padded arm stood behind RKB and taunted the lunging beast. I personally felt that Brown should have, in getting the best photo possible, allowed the handler to release the dog and let him attack, thereby getting an unforgettable cover shot. Unfortunately, RKB didn't agree, and we were forced to settle for white teeth and snarling lips.

Following the intermission show, demonstrations involving mine-detecting Labrador Retrievers and narcotics-sniffing shepherds were held. The extremely high level of competence shown by these animals left no doubt as to the excellence of their training.

Patrol formations were next, and a combat-equipped squad of Thai soldiers moved across the field with shepherds. Standard combat patrol formation in a Thai army unit including dogs consists of 12 men and two dogs. According to a senior instructor, the squad leader can expect his dog to alert from 100 to 150 meters away if there is an enemy presence in their area. Having two dogs affords the patrol leader the option of alternating the animals on the point. The length of time a dog is allowed to remain on point is a matter of personal discretion on the part of the patrol leader, as no two dogs possess the same level of alertness under periods of high stress, and high stress is an integral part of combat patrolling in any AO.

After the demonstrations had finished we were shown the breeding areas and puppy compounds. One experimental breeding effort had produced a Doberman-Rottweiler hybrid puppy that was markedly larger than members of his peer group. Looking at the size of the head and paws, I had a vision of him full-grown and attacking some hapless troop attempting to infiltrate the wire. It wasn't a pretty sight.

One thing that impressed me above all at the center was the enthusiasm and morale of the cadre and troops. There is no way to fake morale, and it is a sign of excellent command techniques when personnel demonstrate their enjoyment in what they're doing. The troops and dogs at Pak Chong truly appreciate one another. And the CO, deputy CO, staff and cadre have plenty to be proud of.

Our sincere thanks and deep respect go out to those who made our visit to the military dog training center possible. ✕

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VIVE LES GUNS

Continued from page 71

sear directly behind. When the hammer is cocked, it is held back by the main sear. When the trigger is pulled, the main sear moves forward off its notch on the hammer and the hammer rotates up and forward, driven by its coil spring. When the bolt moves back and rolls the hammer down, it's caught by the secondary sear. When the trigger is released, the secondary sear moves back out of engagement with the hammer. As the hammer starts forward after the trigger has been released, it is caught once more by the main sear and held until the trigger is pulled again. The trigger mechanism is contained in a cheaply fabricated housing which is held to the receiver by a slotted-head screw which is also notched to engage a locking spring on the trigger guard. A cross-bolt safety with an extension bar containing a cross-checked button on the end is rotated toward the trigger to both block trigger movement and impede access to the trigger. Trigger pull weights vary from five to 10 pounds.

MAS 1944/49 staggered, box-type, detachable magazines hold 10 rounds and are well-designed. The follower spring, fabricated from 0.066-inch diameter round wire, is of unusual design as it is wound into a coil at each of the joints. The magazine is held in position by a spring-loaded catch riveted to the right side of the magazine body. The catch engages a notch on the right side of the receiver. The magazine floorplate is somewhat difficult to remove.

A hold-open device, located in the receiver, is operated by the magazine follower to block the forward movement of the bolt group after the last shot has been fired. The catch is spring loaded and when not engaged by either the magazine follower or bolt face will move down and out of the bolt path.

The sights, bayonet, stacking hook and sling swivels are identical in type and location to those of the MAS 1936 turn-bolt rifle. The butt stock, butt plate, forearm and handguard are also of similar configuration and construction. The buttstock is held to the receiver by a single, peened screw.

Somewhat heavier than the MAS 1936, the MAS 44 weighs 8.6 pounds, empty. Barrel length is 22.9 inches and the overall length is 42.3 inches. There are 120 components, compared with 81 for the M1 Garand and 99 for the SVT-40. A large number of the MAS 44's parts are screws and pins. All screws not intended to be disassembled by the soldier are held in place by peening.

Field stripping the MAS 44/49 series rifles presents no problems and can be accomplished in about 12 seconds. Remove the magazine and clear the weapon by retracting the bolt group with the checkered plastic cocking knob on the bolt carrier. Leave the hammer in the cocked position. Depress the spring-loaded catch at the back of the receiver and slide the top cover forward and off of the receiver. Withdraw the

Continued on page 98



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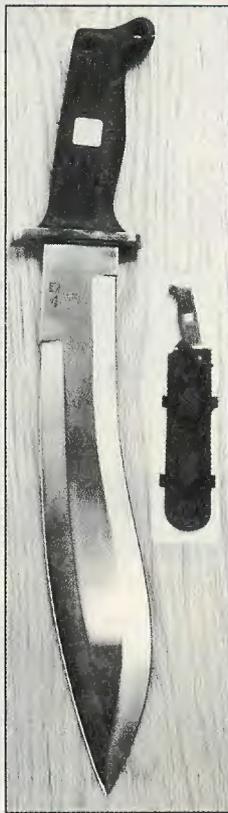
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recoil spring. Pull back on the retracting handle and withdraw the bolt group. Separate the carrier from the bolt and withdraw the firing pin from the bolt body. No further disassembly is usually required. Reassembly in the reverse order. Removal of the forearm and handguard may present some difficulty as the front sling swivel screw is usually peened to its steel retaining band. If the forearm is loose, its fit can be tightened by small leather shims placed inside its receptacle in the front of the receiver. Loose buttstocks are frequently encountered on these rifles and this requires careful removal of the peened surface on their retaining screw inside the receiver and re-peening after tightening.

When the MAS Model 1949 rifle was adopted, several other modifications were incorporated in addition to the grenade launcher, which is similar in type to that of the MAS 1936/51 (although it is graduated with numbers from 8 to 26). A dovetailed scope mount was milled into the left side of the receiver. While the sight radius remains at 26 inches and the front sight is still a tapered blade with a width of 0.085 inches at the top, the front sight hood was replaced by protective ears. More important, the rear sight aperture, with a diameter of 0.048 inches can be adjusted for both windage and elevation zero. A spring-loaded plunger operates against the aperture to hold it in position and offer a total of nine clicks (at 0.012 inches each) for elevation zero. By means of a screw, the rear sight unit can be moved in its dovetailed base over a range of six clicks (each having the same value as those for elevation) for adjustment of windage zero.

The MAS 49 rifle was, in turn, eventually modified and adopted as the MAS 1949/56, in which configuration it sailed into obsolescence when replaced in 1979 by the caliber 5.56x45mm NATO FA MAS bullpup. The barrel was shortened by almost 2 1/2 inches to a length of 20.5 inches. This resulted in a loss of approximately 200 fps in muzzle velocity. A threaded flash suppressor was added to the muzzle. The rear sight housing was altered and the ability to adjust for elevation zero was deleted. This adjustment was placed on the re-designed post-type front sight. The handguard and forearm were shortened and the forearm configuration altered to the "schabel" type (curved to resemble the beak of a bird). The grenade launcher sight was moved from the left side to the top of the barrel. Its range numbers, now milled into the barrel, are graduated from 9 to 19. A gas cut-off, in the form of a small pivoting leaf that must be lifted in order to employ the grenade launcher sight, was also incorporated.

At this time and at long last, the bayonet was completely re-designed also. Its blade shape was taken from that of the U.S. M4-M7 knife bayonets. Grip panels are of black, un-checked plastic. There are two muzzle rings. The front ring fits over the flash suppressor, the rear one on the barrel's grenade launcher collar. The rear muzzle ring diminishes the bayonet's value as a fighting or utility knife. A leather frog has been riveted to the steel scabbard.

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A beta-light night vision attachment that slips over the muzzle and the Model 1953 scope were sometimes issued with the MAS 49/56. Four spare magazines were standard issue and were carried in leather pouches on the Mle 1922 leather LBE.

It has been reputed that a limited quantity of MAS 49/56 rifles were manufactured in caliber 7.62x51mm NATO. Unconfirmed reports allege that some of these went to the Colombian army. The disposition of any others is unknown.

In addition to France, few nations — with the exception of former French or Belgian colonies such as Benin, Burundi, Belgian Congo, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Ivory Coast, Malagasy Republic and Rwanda — ever issued French caliber 7.5x54mm caliber weapons to their armies. Syria, over which France once had a League of Nations mandate, also used the MAS 49 and 49/56 rifles.

From 16 October to 7 November 1950, a test of the MAS M1944, Type A (apparently a prototype of the MAS 49 as the specimen was equipped with a grenade launcher and dovetailed scope base attached to the left side of the receiver by means of three screws and spot welding, as well as the fully adjustable rear sight) was conducted at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

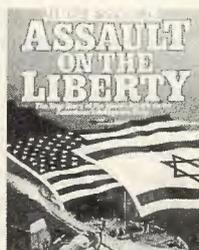
One rifle, with a cracked receiver and no spare parts, was obtained for this test. The endurance test was to consist of 4,500 rounds, but firing ceased after 3,418 rounds when the extractor failed. The conclusions were that the rifle was extremely simple and appeared easy to manufacture. It was easily field stripped but complete disassembly was inconvenient. It exhibited possibilities of excellent function and endurance performance and gave average accuracy performance (6.50 inches of extreme spread at 100 yards compared to 6.74 inches for three M1 Garands). Damage to several components during the test was due to excessive energy of the reciprocating parts. It was recommended that the principle of operation be investigated by designers of lightweight military rifles, and in retrospect it is obvious that Eugene Stoner heeded this advice.

Approximately 700 MAS 44 rifles were imported by Century several years ago, most in almost new condition. They have all been sold and today command up to \$300 each. They are marked with the serial number and "MAS MLE 1944" on the left side of the receiver. Exactly 1,919 MAS 49 rifles were recently imported by Century from Syria. All of them were subjected to heavy use and while a few are in "very good" condition, most are battlefield "beaters." Their present value ranges from \$190 to \$230. Markings are of a similar type and in the same location as the MAS 44, except that the model designation has been changed to "MLE 1949", and "CAL 7,5" added. There were eight MAS 49/56 rifles (marked "MLE 1949-56") in this lot from Syria. Three were destroyed in a fire at the Century International Arms offices and the other five were quickly sold to salivating collectors. As there are probably fewer than a dozen MAS 49/56 rifles in the United States, their current value is somewhat in



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excess of \$1,200 with little prospect that any more will be released anytime in the near future by the French government.

All of the above may interest collectors, but these rifles hold no appeal to shooters unless reasonably priced ammunition for them is available. Millions of rounds of Syrian-manufactured ball ammo have recently been imported. The Arabic head-stamp on the brass, Berdan-primed cases indicates the rounds were manufactured in 1957. The 139-grain, FMJ, flat-based bullets have a copper-washed steel jacket with a substantial crimping groove and a lead core. The propellant charge consists of 44.5 grains of a fine, round ball powder (French ammunition in this caliber usually features a square flake powder of approximately the same charge weight).

Both the French and Syrian cases are of erratic strength, and when fired in semiautomatic rifles you can expect approximately 10 rim shears in every 1,000 thousand rounds. I suggest wiping the cases with a light coat of a "carnuba"-type car wax. It will turn to liquid in the hot chamber and serve to lubricate the cases and ease extraction. In any event, a broken case is no more than a temporary annoyance and easy enough to remove. It is to be expected when firing older vintage rifles and machine guns with surplus military ammunition.

All of these French caliber 7.5x54mm infantry rifles are sturdy, reliable, ugly enough to be fascinating and permeated with history

(although they postdate "Beau Geste," all except the MAS 49/56 were used in French Indochina). Ammunition is plentiful and the weapons themselves are genuine bargains. For about 200 bucks you can have a semi-automatic military rifle that's guaranteed to infuriate Howard Metzbaum, as their 10-round detachable magazines rub right up against his magic limit. For only \$65 you can own and shoot a military turn-bolt that's safe from his clutches until he and the rest of his ilk go after "sniper rifles" (i.e. any rifle to which a scope could be, by any means, attached). ✕

BIZARRE BAZAAR

Continued from page 65

the best buy is a genuine 1942-issue British paratrooper's cammie battle-smock — just Rs 30 (\$1.50).

Several Western journalists covering the war in Afghanistan have created a profitable sideline business out of dealing in military surplus. One, for example, sells the British para smocks in London for up to 70 pounds each to a theatrical costume agency which hires them out to movie producers keen on authenticity.

Peter Jouvenal, a documentary film maker who has made 50 trips inside Afghanistan since 1980, sells Soviet uniforms as a pastime. Formerly with the 7th Para Regiment

of the Royal Horse Artillery, Jouvenal now supplies the British Army with specific equipment and documents of Soviet origin which are used, he says, "for recognition purposes, not training."

He also supplies shops catering to the military collector, but insists this is just a hobby. "I'm not in it for the money but just because it interests me," he said. "Besides, there is bugger all else to do in Peshawar on a Friday." Personally he is chasing a mobile workshop such as found in big Zil trucks to convert into a film-editing studio, but his challenge lies in wrangling some bigger prey. "I'd love to supply an APC — not for the cash — just for the fun of doing it," he muses.

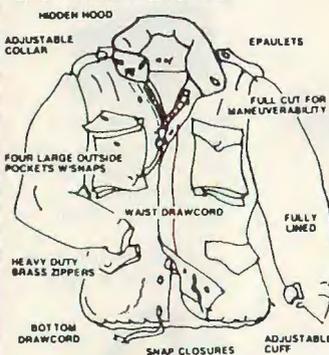
As the man who recently led a BBC team into the heart of Kabul and out again successfully, he's got the talent and the balls to do it. For the present, though, Jouvenal is occupied filling an order for 100 Soviet army summer uniforms complete with boots, belts, bayonets, ammo and gas-mask pouches and packs.

For the souvenir hunter chasing something martial yet practical for peaceful use, then select one of the so-called "Kalashnikov carpets" woven by enterprising Afghan refugees who have brought out a range of pieces depicting AKs, RPGs, pistols, bullets and even tanks and helicopters. Some are even woven with the name and serial number of the gun, although the spelling is often a little shaky, e.g. "Kalshnke-

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koup."

While the Peshawar-based mujahideen leadership continues to predict an imminent collapse of the Najib regime, recent action around Jalalabad and Kandahar suggests not, and if the current pressure on muj field commanders to negotiate a peaceful settlement for coexistence with Kabul gains momentum, then serious collectors who wish to have a military memento of Ivan's invasion of Afghanistan should be in Peshawar now. ✕

SRI LANKA

Continued from page 59

detained. But it is such finds which lead to others. For instance, acting on information developed through leads, a major operation I went on missed its primary target, a key JVP figure, but did catch its secondary target, four cadre. Thus are inroads made in wrapping up the insurgent infrastructure.

And so it goes, day after wearing day. That the troops have held up so well to date is due to their tremendous esprit built up from years of combat, capped by the successful "Liberation I" operation; by a strong sense of nationalism; and by the competent leadership provided by the officer corps.

Indeed, not only have the officers shared the hardships of the past years with their

men, virtually all of those with whom I was associated — such as the officer leading my escort as we paused at the beginning of this article — had been wounded at least once. Thus there is little gap between leaders and those led. Instead, there seems a deep sense of shared status as guardians of a troubled but proud nation.

True, I heard nothing save disdain for the corrupt politicians who have led this paradise into disaster. Yet the bonds which bind the army together are not in the main those of opposition: they are the shared sinews of regimental esprit.

These were clearly visible as I stood with the officers of the Gajaba Regiment on a boiling afternoon — an afternoon which followed an early morning cordon and search. There, at a village in the heart of Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka's capital a thousand years ago when the island was a mighty empire that extended its sway as far as southern India and Southeast Asia), we had come to bury one of the regiment's own.

The corporal had come home on leave from an operational area, only to be assassinated by a JVP hit squad. No one in the village had been willing to guide them, so they had blundered their way to his house, led him away, then gunned him down. Now, as the entire force in training at the regimental center stood at attention and two lonely bugles played taps, hundreds of villagers crowded around the coffin to pay their respects.

The mother tried to throw herself into the grave of her only son but was restrained. Already her husband was dead, she wailed, now they had taken her boy.

In was that same magic hour. No magic this time, you would think. But there was something.

Three quick rifle salutes. The lead bearer took from the coffin the lion-embazoned flag and the soldier's beret, its regimental plume glowing bright in the light which filtered through the trees. He turned. The regimental officers held their stiff salute, and the assembled regiment did likewise. He handed the plumed bundle to the small woman.

Even the tumult of the mourning throng stopped for that instant. In the background towered the ruined stupas of Anuradhapura. And between the notes of the bugle call, whispered the wind, "Lanka, you shall not fall again. We are here." ✕

IN REVIEW

Continued from page 14

settle in with this memory of good men not forgotten.

On the subject of ghosts of Christmas past, 1989 marked the 50th anniversary of the beginning of World War II (accepting 1 September '39, Hitler's invasion of Poland, as a start-

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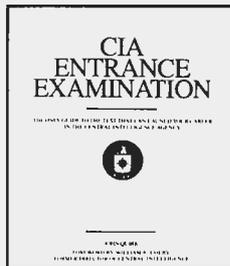
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ing point). How many thousands of books have been written on that six-year follow-up to the war to end all wars? Our bookshelves are sagging, that's for sure. But we'll make room for one more, **The Historical Encyclopedia of World War II** (Facts On File), the A-to-Z of people, places, events, organizations, plans, campaigns — nearly everything the casual, or avid, World War II reader needs for quick and concise reference. We'll rate this as a "must have" that'll give you good service long after the toys have broken and the batteries run dry.

Although shamrocks and roasting chestnuts are out of holiday sync, **Shamrock and Sword** (University of

Oklahoma Press) by Robert Ryal Miller will give you cocktail-hour conversation whether you're swilling brandy-heavy eggnog or Saint Patrick's Day Irish-green tinted beer. Start with this cheery gambit: What foreign war in which the United States engaged had the highest number of U.S. deserters? If you answered Vietnam, exile yourself to Stockholm. It was the U.S.-Mexican War of 1846-48, and where did many of those deserters go? Why, to join the *Battallon de San Patricio* — The Saint Patrick's Battalion — of the Mexican army, that's where. These "Saint Patricks" (actually, Irishmen comprised only about two-fifths of the unit), led by John Riley and fighting

under a shamrock flag, engaged U.S. forces during five major battles. Mexico viewed them as heroes; the U.S. Army felt a bit differently: when captured they were court-martialed; 50 were executed; many were whipped and branded with a "D" on their cheek (Riley ended up with a "D" on both cheeks).

All good fare for 1990, and they're books you'll want to keep around. Make a resolution to buy 'em and read 'em — we'll quiz you later. ✕

TILLAMOOK

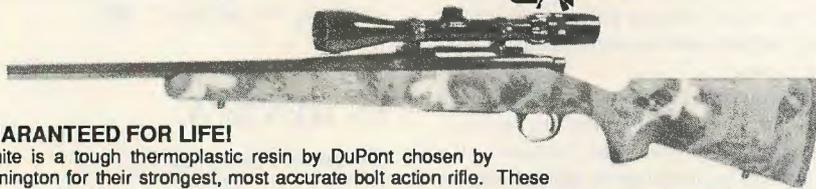
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would have prompted an invitation to the state home for the feeble-minded. These men had, mercifully, never seen a Rambo movie, and they figured one Jap per one round of .30-30 was about the right ratio; if you could get two in a line, then the fellow with the .30-06 would shoot through both of them. These were folks who would say to their wife around the first of September, "Wal, Honey, hunting season starts next week, guess I'd better go to town and get me a bullet" and only be half-joking. The rifle was as natural an extension of their hand as was a pitchfork or an axe, and could just as efficiently be used. One who swings an axe all day learns early not to miss a stroke. S.L.A. Marshall was yet to make his spurious assertions that only 15 percent of the participants would use their weapons in a firefight, and unquestionably every Tillamook Guerrilla with a gun and a target would be shooting. Deliberately, accurately, lethally.

Their central strategy was very straightforward: "If a Jap comes on my place, I'll shoot him." Their tactics might also strike von Clausewitz as a little vague, but one who has hunted deer and elk in these dense forests all his life develops a sense of what is practical in terms of stealth, concealment, flanking an enemy, ambushes and so forth — or he goes home hungry. Only the prey would have been different, and although this prey could shoot back, he lacked the natural senses of the prey upon which these guerrillas had trained since their childhood. The guerrilla's marksmanship was experienced, careful, and this time the hunters would have the advantage of not having to worry about spoiling any meat with a poorly placed shot.

In the words of Col. Arnold, "If the Japs try to land in the bays or inlets — Netarts, Tillamook or lesser coves they will find guerrillas on the cliffs, sand spits and in the bogs using their own ammunition and rifles." A landing in force by the Japanese might have been momentarily successful, depending on their numbers. But a protracted engagement in the Coast Range mountains against these determined home fighters, and other groups which unquestionably would have formed in response to an actual

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invasion, would have bled the Japanese invader to death. The terrain and vegetation on the Oregon Coast is just about perfectly suited for defense.

The treacherous tides, currents and rocky terrain of the Tillamook coast — an infamous graveyard of ships for two centuries — would have made the landing itself an act of attrition. But to assault into the Coast Range probably would have been costly folly. The passes were few and easily blocked, precluding the use of motorized — or even motor-drawn — weapons. It would have been men with small arms against men with small arms, and the defenders would have had not only every advantage of motive, but of terrain, cover and concealment as well. It is difficult to envision how thick the vine maple, blackberries, devil's club and salaal grow beneath the towering hemlock and fir of the Coast Range, but it is not terrain where you walk; one must fight every step of the way to get through the undergrowth, and you can forget using a machete. Because of the thick, briarous undergrowth and continual wet, loggers traditionally wear "tin" pants made of heavy, waxed canvas. Although the mountains are small in comparison to major ranges such as the Rockies, they are very steep. We have been bear hunting in these woods where the growth was so dense an angry old sow let us get to within a few feet of her before she charged, and we had no idea she was there.

Although a Japanese invader would have found the Oregon coast to be Indian Country from terrain consideration alone, the pivotal factor would have been that these guerrillas were willing — predisposed might be a better word — to fight for their farmstead, their strip of beach or their timberland... and their country. And the Japs knew it. The Tillamook and Lincoln County Guerrillas, indeed the general populace of the coastal mountains, did not intend to be a "resistance" group. They intended to meet the invaders first at the beach and kick their butts into the ocean. And if that didn't work then they'd fight them with the rage of a gut-shot bear from behind every stump and rock in the mountains. To the last man. So help them God!

Could their predisposition to fight, or the (to some) ridiculous proposition of an unofficial deer-rifle and manure-fork popular militia have any *real* effect on a foreign military invader? Even as a deterrent? To best judge that, let us weigh these considerations on the enemy's scale. A Japanese intelligence study prepared in the summer of 1941 considered a number of factors in evaluating the viability of an all-out attack on the West Coast. Tokyo wanted to know if they could pull it off; and if they could pull it off, could they keep what they'd won? This intelligence study recommended *against* attempting an invasion for several specific reasons, to wit: although U.S. military forces were known to be weak and spread very thin, invading forces would be at the

Continued on page 107

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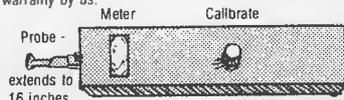
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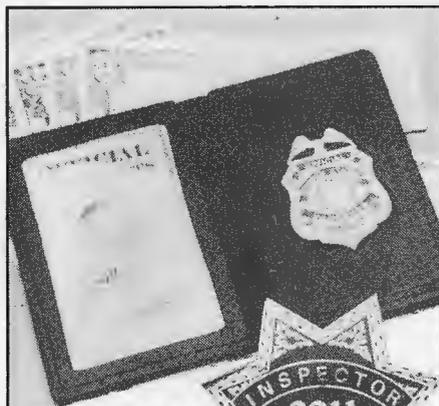
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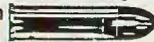
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TILLAMOOK

Continued from page 103

end of a long and potentially vulnerable supply line — and they were already very much involved in China. But the pivotal consideration was that they could not hope to control or even hold the territory they might occupy; because much of the population was *not* located in metropolitan centers, and because they judged Americans to be by nature too undisciplined to possibly be controlled by a central invading authority. And not only were Americans disinclined to be ruled by someone they didn't choose, most Americans, especially in the West, were *armed and probably would fight*. Velly sound observation, Tojo. The colonial Brits decided to set us free after realizing we were "a people numerous and armed." And that principle is as important a consideration today, to any potential invader or tyrant, as it ever was.

Was there ever a real-enough threat of a Japanese invasion to justify the formation of such armed bands of civilian militiamen? We have just seen that the Japanese wanted to invade, considered it, and the armed American populace helped them think better of it. And as history marched through the

events of World War II, Oregon was the only state where a military base was attacked, the only state to be bombed by a piloted enemy aircraft, and the only state where lives were lost as a direct result of enemy action. The threat was real.

Writing of the military situation at the time of the Japanese shelling of Fort Stevens on the Oregon coast, Col. Frederick C. Dahlquist (then a major at Fort Stevens) noted that, "In June 1942, the Japanese could have landed troops on the coast of Oregon and Washington with comparative ease, taken the few fortifications from the rear, and advanced to the key centers of Portland and Seattle. At the time we did not have sufficient troops, weapons and planes to accomplish more than delay, for a very short time, of a well-armed and determined enemy force." Indeed, the Japanese probably *could* have flanked our defensive shore installations, especially had they managed to escape the mines at the mouth of the Columbia River and raced upstream to Portland — but had they counted on overland routes their determination might have been severely tested. Conventional forces as were available would have mustered to defend the obvious lines of advance such as the Columbia River, and the Tillamook Guerrillas et al. would have made the moun-

tains and overland routes a very hostile and costly passage.

Although these volunteer guerrilla irregulars would not know it until Portland newspapers broke the story after the war, in the event of a massive Japanese invasion U.S. military strategy at the time would have been to fight a retrograde action and make the stand at the Rocky Mountains. Had these hastily organized bands of armed civilians been left to fight a guerrilla war in the enemy's rear, my guess is that they would have had an effect quite disproportional to their numbers. The worst place to fight a badger is in his own hole. They would *not* have been little more than target practice for the Japs, as they were free men, numerous and armed. Frederick Haldimand, a capable Swiss officer, and second in command to the British General Gage at Boston, wisely did not agree with those who dismissed the colonial militia as rabble in arms. "*The Americans*," Haldimand sagely noted, "*would be less dangerous if they had a regular army.*"

Headlines at the time proclaimed "Tillamook Guerrillas Set For Any and All Invaders," "Tillamook Guerrillas Ready if Japs Try Invasion" and "Tillamook Guerrillas Would Repel Invaders." Or die trying, Tojo, you can bet on that. ☒

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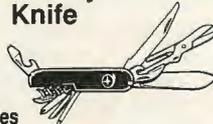
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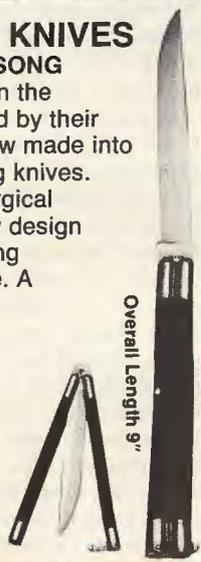
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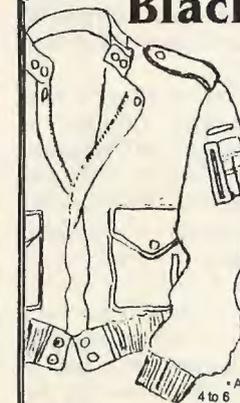
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PARTING SHOT

by Don McLean

TIME for a Gun Ban

Readers have sent us copies of a form letter they got from the editors of *TIME* Magazine in response to their chiding *TIME* for its high-handed and one-sided coverage of the gun ownership issue, in particular the 17 July cover date that devoted 28 pages to a photo morgue of 464 people killed in one week by criminal hands which held a gun (of which most were suicides). Space allows us to neither refute that article, which has already been adequately done by numerous others, nor to print the whole form letter they sent in response to outraged readers, but the following excerpt from that response letter is so revealing that it must be shared:

"The July 17 cover story is the most recent in a growing number of attempts on the part of TIME editors to keep the gun-availability issue resolutely in view. Such an editorial closing of ranks represents the exception rather than the rule in the history of the magazine, which has always endeavored to provide a variety of opinions and comment, in addition to straightforward news reporting, as a way of engaging readers in interpreting the significance of events as they arise. But the time for opinions on the dangers of gun availability is long since gone, replaced by overwhelming evidence that it represents a growing threat to public safety. . . ."

Say WHAT? *"The time for opinions . . . is long since gone . . ."*? And these people make their living in the arena protected by the First Amendment?

We were not surprised when these coddle-the-criminal/disarm-the-citizen twits didn't devote equal space to illustrate the lives saved by gun ownership during the week of the deaths they illustrated, as to do that they would have required the same 28 pages in *TIME* for more than the next two years!

A study by noted criminologist Dr. Gary Kleck of Florida State University reveals that every year some 650,000 Americans — read that "you and me, Joe" — use firearms to thwart criminal assault. That's 12,500 times a week the common, law-abiding citizens that *TIME* would see disarmed defend their life or person with a gun — not to mention a similar number who thwart crimes against property with a gun.

That's the Second Amendment at work.

TIME has something of a penchant for denying exposure to evidence which might illustrate a wrong turn in their agenda. And *TIME*, of course, has a right to this editorial myopia. That's our First Amendment at work. But to deny the reader's right to an opinion? And admit it? We would fight back-to-the-wall with sticks and stones (which is all we would have left if *TIME* gets its way) to defend *TIME*'s right to publish their editorial opinion, but when they would deny readers their right to a dissenting opinion . . . well, that's simply not giving us of the great unwashed enlightenment by editorial in the tradition of the First Amendment — that's merely dishonest journalism at best and consensus by suppository if it works.

There probably are very few gun owners who wouldn't give up their right to keep and bear arms — or both thumbs for that matter — if it were true that this would stop the galloping menace of violent crime. But the fact is, guns in the hands of the honest populace is one of the most effective deterrents to violent crime. And at times it can be the only viable immediate defense against violent crime.

And laws which disarm the honest citizen would have utterly no effect toward disarming criminals, but merely would make them armed wolves among legally disarmed sheep, having an incentive rather than deterrent effect. This conclusion is inescapable. And every cop I've ever asked holds the same opinion. It's possible, of course, that I've just been talking to like-minded cops, but a recent survey by the National Association of Chiefs of Police seems to be consistent. Some 90 percent of the respondents said that outlawing rifles and shotguns wouldn't make them harder for criminals to get, and some 86 percent agreed that citizens should be allowed to own private rifles, shotguns and handguns. But don't look for the results of that poll to appear in *TIME*.

With all the recent hysteria whipped up over private ownership of autoloading rifles with detachable magazines (which, we must note, have been with us almost as long as the automobile,

but the automobile is the mechanism man has used to cause many more deaths), virtually lost in this orchestrated cacophony was the recent estimate by U.S. Customs that some 80,000 Chinese AKs have been smuggled into this country, by criminals and in violation of existing law, obviously with some sort of criminal intent.

As one Customs official observed regarding these illegal weapons, criminals who are already in the business of smuggling in tons of dope have no qualms about adding a few tons of illegal weapons to their manifest. You know, trade goods and tools of the trade in the same shipment. But the thrust of the current flap is to remove autoloading rifles from the hands of average, law-abiding citizens. Seems to me that if violent crime is the tide we seek to stem, then the tack to take would be to issue a like 80,000 AKs among citizens who find themselves now living next to a crack house. Not every besieged neighborhood has a resident detachment of Rangers to lead the way, like Tacoma, Washington.

That disarming honest citizens places them at a severe disadvantage to armed criminals is undeniable. That outlawing private weapons of any type has no effect on their availability to criminals, placing honest citizens at further disadvantage, is undeniable. These facts may be questioned, but in light of who actually obeys laws — the average citizen or the violent criminal — they are essentially irrefutable.

The only ways to refute an irrefutable fact are either to deny it and hope the reader doesn't research (or reason) further, or ignore it and refuse to deal with it. *TIME* readers should have gotten used to that by now. Stating one's editorial opinion in a one-sided fashion is still within the ragged boundaries of legitimate editorial journalism. But to deny the reader the right to his opinion (should he let his attention roam beyond the pages of *TIME* and come up with an opinion which differs) is a new low in cheap propagandizing. Even *Pravda* does better. We've always enjoyed the right to read what everybody prints and winnowing the wheat from the chaff on our own; we think that is why we have a First Amendment. But I'll be double-doggoned, when they have the impudence to deny the reader his right to an opinion, if I'll even pick up a used *TIME* in the barbershop anymore. ✖

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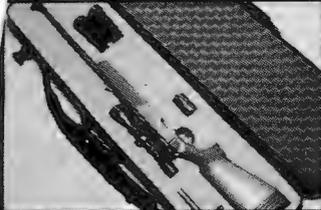
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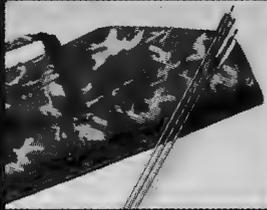
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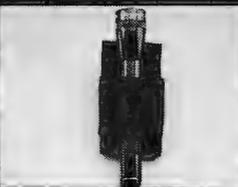
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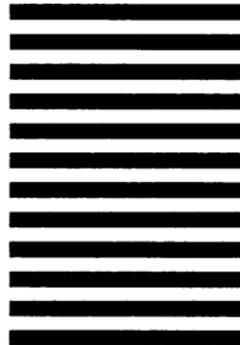
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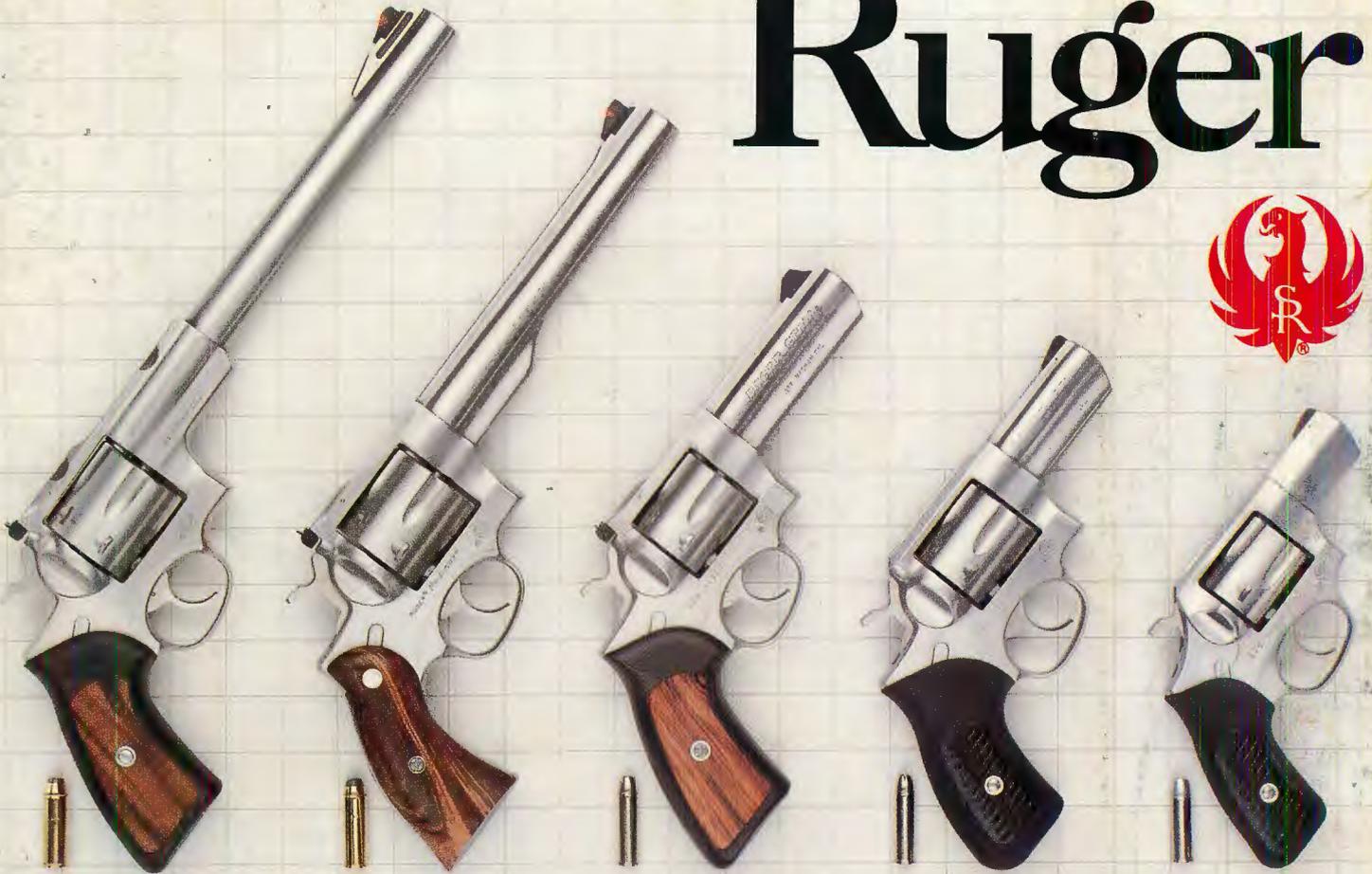
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